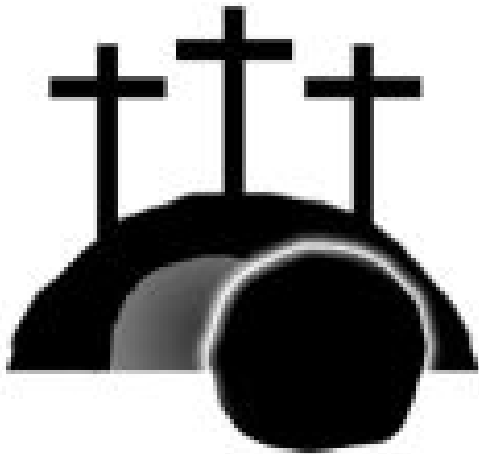


ROGERS PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The People's Press

April 2009



Holy Week Services

Holy Week is a time of agony and ecstasy. The week began with great ecstasy for the disciples, who expected Jesus now to make his move. He entered Jerusalem dramatically. The crowds in the Holy City for the Feast of Passover hailed his arrival. Symbolism of messiahship abounded. Excitement was building toward a fever pitch.

But it was a week of agony for political and religious leaders. Jesus and his followers posed an enormous threat. They could overturn everything, leading to chaos and bloodshed. The authorities agonized over the best way to survive and prevail over this peril, without causing too much reaction.

Before the week ended, the agonized were ecstatic and the ecstatic were in agony. The powers prevailed. They crushed the upstart from Galilee. For everyone, this seemed the end. No one envisioned it as anything but over.

But on the morning of the third day... all heaven broke loose. Easter! The Day of

Resurrection! God's victory surpassed both political machinations and broken spirits. In the wonder of Easter there is new hope for the defeated in life. And for the schemers and plotters comes the word that even the best laid schemes are subject to the power of God.

Each year we relive this drama. We step into the Passion Play, with the crowd of Palm Sunday, we sit at his table on Thursday evening and then remember his suffering that followed. And finally, Easter morning, we sign anew that "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today!" Come, enter the drama of Holy Week:

Palm Sunday worship:

April 5, 11AM

Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae:

April 9, 7PM

Easter Sunday worship:

April 12, 11AM

The spirit of Easter is of new life, a comfort to many in despair and loss, a challenge to others secure in their own ways. May Easter bring you solace and hope, and a confidence founded in the passionate depths of God's love. And may it also challenge you to become the new person that you have the potential to be.



Pastor Kent

ROGERS PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The People's Press

April 2009

Organ

The One Great Hour of Sharing

On Palm Sunday (this Sunday, April 5), we will contribute to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. This offering began 60 years ago, to help to heal a broken world, shortly after the end of World War II. American Protestant Christians were painfully aware of the need for relief, resettlement and redevelopment aid throughout Europe and elsewhere. The One Great Hour of Sharing began in 1949 as the way several denominations, including the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) could have funds to respond to emergency and ongoing human needs, at home and abroad, throughout the year. Through the One Great Hour of Sharing, after a hurricane, amid armed conflict, whenever and wherever there is disaster, Christian aid workers are there to help to comfort and rebuild. In the Presbyterian Church, we have in recent years added programs to combat world hunger and to aid in the self-development of low income peoples. We give to the One Great Hour of Sharing at one time of the year -- on Palm Sunday -- so that the compassion of Christ may be available and effective throughout the year. Let us give generously, as we are able.

About Maundy Thursday

On a Thursday evening in Jerusalem, shortly before his arrest and trial, Jesus and his disciples gathered in an upper room to share a last supper together. We also will gather on Thursday evening, April 9 at 7 pm, for Holy Communion, sharing symbolically in the Last Supper.

The "Maundy" in Maundy Thursday comes from the Latin word for command, *mandatum*. Because, concerning this holy meal, Jesus commanded his followers: "Do this -- do this in remembrance of me." This year, following Maundy Thursday Communion, we will also observe the ancient service of darkness, called *Tenebrae*. In *Tenebrae*, we hear the Scriptural accounts of Jesus' betrayal and suffering, and after each lesson, a candle is extinguished and the lights are dimmed. In this way, we remember the sacrifice and death of Christ, and we open ourselves to the fullness of joy that comes three days later. Please join us Thursday evening, so that this year the Day of Resurrection, Easter morning, will be even more meaningful for you.



Easter Egg Hunt April 12th

On Easter Sunday, April 12, following worship, the RPPC community will gather in Fellowship Lounge for a special Easter brunch coffee hour. Our children will have an Easter egg hunt, conducted by our youth and Franklin Rhodes. (We will make sure that every child finds and gets an egg.) Following coffee hour, each child will also receive an Easter basket. So plan to join us on this festive day.

ROGERS PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The People's Press April 2009



Upcoming Events

Our annual RPPC Spring Cleaning Day will be scheduled on an upcoming Saturday. Watch for further details.

We are starting a new Youth Group. Our first gathering will be on Saturday, April 18, at the church (Fellowship Lounge) beginning at 6:00 p.m. for a pizza party, organizational meeting and a fun game. For more information, call Raymond Call (773-220-8467).

News of Our Members

John Bell, one of our longest standing members, recently celebrated his 89th birthday with a luncheon at the Mather House where he now resides. Happy birthday, John!

Miriam Pukalo recently traveled to Florida where she visited RPPC member Pat Reppress, and also Alice Loginbill, widow of Dean Loginbill who was pastor here thirty years ago.

Pastor Radel Ilmet, of our Haitian congregation has received a long awaited heart transplant. Rev. Ilmet has expressed his heart-felt thanks for all of our prayers and well wishes.

Women Honored

The women of RPPC were honored with flowers on March 8, 2009 for International Women's Day to show our appreciation for their talents and gifts, which they have bestowed upon their families, friends and RPPC.

Miriam Pukalo was honored as our Woman of the Year with a certificate of service for her amazing fiduciary assistance and her tenure from Deacon to Elder since 1972!



Personal Prayers

Please continue to pray for *Michael Chisholm*, Daphne's husband. He is in recovery from his first hip replacement surgery and well on the way for the next on April 21, 2009.

Please send articles for future issues to the church office at email address:

rogersparkpres@sbcglobal.net