

Marquand Reader

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Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Sunday, March 27 is Easter, one of the two most important holidays of the Christian year. Easter Sunday celebrates the day on which Christ was raised from the dead. On Easter, the “alleluias” that have been silent throughout Lent come bursting forth in praise and exaltation, in celebration of the risen Christ. Liturgically, the change from Lent into the Easter Season is marked not only by this return of “alleluia” to the spoken and sung portions of worship (and thus the return of certain prayers and hymns), but often by bright liturgical decoration including lilies—to represent Jesus—into worship space.

According to the Venerable Bede, the English word “Easter” is related to Estre, a Teutonic goddess of sunrise and spring, though no other sources confirm this. Easter is generally nearby the Jewish celebration of Passover, which uses a different dating system, always beginning on the 14th of the month of Nisan. For Christians, however, the date of Easter changes each year: it is the Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. A controversy in early Christianity arose over the dating of Easter, because some felt that dating Easter by the Jewish start of Passover (hence making Easter Day the 17th of the month of Nisan) was inappropriate. The Council of Nicaea in 325 declared the current dating system, known as the *computus paschalis*, as orthodox, and this ruling has remained the dominant dating system ever since.

Easter Season, or Eastertide, extends for fifty days until the celebration of Pentecost (so named because of the fifty day period). The length of Eastertide has been connected to the Jewish Feast of Weeks, which marked the season of the harvest and began the day after the Sabbath of Passover, extending for seven weeks until the Feast of Pentecost. As a Christian season, the fifty day celebration of Easter has been in place since the end of the fourth century.

We invite you to join us on Easter Monday, March 28 at 7 p.m., as the chapel team leads the annual Easter Rejoicing service to usher us into Eastertide! See details below.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!

Easter Rejoicing, Part I: Plan to Eat!

As part of the Easter Rejoicing, we will be sharing a simple meal of bread and wine/juice, fish, cheese and oil, so please leave a little room for the sharing of this meal in your supper plans!

Easter Rejoicing Part II: Plates and Cups Needed

We need plates and cups for use in Monday night’s Easter Rejoicing service! Please bring any cups, plates or bowls that you would be willing to lend to the chapel on Monday morning and give them to a chapel minister (Ian Doescher, Emily Scott, or Melanie Ross). Or, you can drop them by Jean Lowe’s office (N112, ISM wing, ground floor) at any time on Monday. They will be returned to you after the service.

Easter Rejoicing, Part III: LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!!!

Also, please note that the Easter Rejoicing service will not begin in the chapel. We will meet in four separate locations: the Berkeley Prayer Chapel (on the Quad), the Organ Studio, the Nouwen Prayer Chapel (in the library), and the Commuter Lounge. It does not matter which location you choose—pick one of the four however you wish! The service begins at 7 p.m. in each of the four locations.

Liturgical Laughter

“God also said to Abraham, ‘As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.’ Abraham fell facedown; **he laughed** and said to himself, ‘Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?’... Abraham and Sarah were already old and well advanced in years, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. So **Sarah laughed** to herself as she thought, ‘After I am worn out and my husband is old, will I now have this pleasure?’ Then God said to Abraham, ‘Why did Sarah laugh and say, “Will I really have a child, now that I am old?” Is anything too hard for God? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son.’ Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, ‘I did not laugh.’ But God said, ‘Yes, you did laugh.’”

—from Genesis 17 and 18

What’s so funny? Find out this Friday, April 1, at our April Fools Day Eucharist!

A Look Ahead: The Next Two Weeks’ Services

Please join over the next two weeks for the following services at 10:30 a.m., except where otherwise noted:

Monday, March 28: graduating student Andie Wigodsky will preach.

Monday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m.: please join us for our annual Easter Rejoicing service, beginning in four different locations—the Berkeley Prayer Chapel (on the Quad), the Organ Studio, the Nouwen Prayer Chapel (in the library), and the Commuter Lounge.

Tuesday, March 29: a jazz service, with Claire Wolterstorff giving the homily.

Wednesday, March 30: a new service of sung morning prayer begins, led by Patrick Evans and featuring global song.

Thursday, March 31: Professor Jeremy Hultin will preach, and the gospel choir will provide special music.

Friday, April 1: the chapel team presents a special April Fools Day Eucharist. No joke!

All who gather for worship are welcome at the communion table in Marquand Chapel.

Monday, April 4: the seventh Difficult Texts Series service will feature Dean Harry Attridge preaching.

Tuesday, April 5: Sr. Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking*, will be our preacher.

Wednesday, April 6: the new service of sung morning prayer continues!

Thursday, April 7: Methodist minister and gay rights activist Beth Stroud will offer the homily.

Friday, April 8: Eucharist led by YDS emeritae Letty Russell and Shannon Clarkson.

All who gather for worship are welcome at the communion table in Marquand Chapel.