

the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

Vol. XXVIII, No.5

March 18, 2026

christchurchtyler.org

FROM THE RECTOR:

Holy Week is approaching.

We have intentionally observed this most significant week in the life of the Church since at least the third century.

Egeria, a pilgrim from Spain, visited Jerusalem between 381 and 385 and recorded her experiences in a diary. She described Holy Week in the Holy City as a powerful succession of worship services, beginning on Palm Sunday, in which all members of the Church fast, pray, and worship every day. She describes special daily worship services from Holy Monday through Maundy Thursday.

Egeria records that on “Good Friday...from noon to three p.m. all keep watch on the actual site of Golgotha with lections and prayers amid deep emotion...On Holy Saturday evening the paschal vigil takes place much as in other churches, with its lections and prayers and baptisms.”

The Holy Week practices and customs of Christ Church are rooted in the most ancient practices of the Church. On Palm Sunday, we gather with palm branches to recall the triumphal entry of Christ into Jerusalem. On Monday through Thursday, we meet in the nave at noon for Holy Eucharist. On Thursday evening, we observe Maundy Thursday, washing one another’s feet and stripping the altar bare. On Good Friday, we meet at noon with deep emotion to recall the death of Christ, as a wooden cross is brought into the nave and set at the foot of the chancel steps.

Then on Saturday evening, following the ancient tradition of the Church, we begin our celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord. We will gather in the nave for the Great Vigil of Easter, and rejoice anew at the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The faithful have gathered for 1900 years to fast, pray, and worship together throughout Holy Week.

We bid you to come and worship the King.

Faithfully in Christ Jesus,



This past weekend I was catching up with a colleague who had recently become a father for the first time. We were talking about the joy and blessing of children, but also the real strain that comes with a newborn: Sleepless nights, high anxiety, an unpredictable schedule, and – worst of all – infuriatingly puzzling car seats!

We also talked about the way that the gift of children reveals how far we still have to go in the journey of discipleship. At one point, I said, “I thought I was a pretty godly person until I had children.”

What I was referring to was the fact that I had looked pretty pious when life was placid, when I had time on my hands, when I had the guarantee of a good night’s sleep each night. I could do more or less what I pleased whenever I wanted. The outward trappings of holiness were easy then.

But with the gift of children come challenges that revealed selfishness, frustration, and (sometimes!) anger that sat just below the surface.

I sometimes felt like Peter when Jesus said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go” (John 21:18b). Jesus was getting Peter ready for martyrdom of course.

When I hear these words as if they were addressed to me, Jesus is saying something more like “Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. When you grow older, you are going to spend time cleaning up cheerios, shuttling kid to activities and picking up Legos”. Not exactly being led to my death, but enough of an impingement on my freedom to make me want to complain.

The psalmist talks about children as gifts from God. He writes, “sons are indeed a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward” (Psalm 127:3). Children are indeed a blessing, something to be grateful for.

But children – like any wonderful gift – come with a cost. Children require something of parents that is difficult to conceptualize until they arrive in all of their individuality, with all of their needs and desires and wants. This is especially pronounced in the early years, but as I have learned, and as I have been told, continues in other ways as children grow older.

This “being for” another unveils some of the uglier parts of hearts, parts that we might otherwise hide from God. And it’s not just children who open up the depths of who we are, so can caring for an aged parent or dealing with an overly inquisitive neighbor.

Whatever challenges these people God has placed in our lives bring, whatever curtailment they bring to our freedom, this is precisely the place God is at work, showing us the areas of our lives in which grace has still to do its work. And the proper attitude is to learn to see the gift of children as an opportunity for us to grow, to be more like Jesus, to be more centered in him.



Holy Week

2026



Palm Sunday March 29⁺
(with Palm Procession)

Holy Monday - Wednesday
March 30, 31, April 1
Noon Eucharist CCD



Maundy Thursday April 2
7:00pm^{*} CCD



Good Friday April 3
12:00pm CCD
Stations of the Cross > 1:15pm CCD



Holy Saturday April 4
Easter Egg Hunt > 10:00am CCS
Great Vigil > 8:00pm CCD

& *Easter*
April 5 *Sunday*

Christ Church **Downtown** [CCD]
7:30am, 9:00am⁺, 11:00am^{*}
Easter Reception [no Christian Formation]

Christ Church **South** [CCS]
7:00am (outdoor sunrise service) & 11:05am⁺
Easter Reception [no Christian Formation]



*Nursery available +Children's Chapel



children's ministry
Zoe Montes
Director of Children's Ministry

zward@christchurchtyler.org

save the Date



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
June 22-26, 2026

www.christchurchtyler.org/vbs

Volunteer registration is open!
The number of volunteers determines how many kids we can host, so the more volunteers the better!



Sunday, April 12
12:30pm @ CCS

CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!

3/20 Abigail Jensen, 3/23 Adam Mozqueda,
3/29 Anna Kate Dickerson, 4/1 Jonathan Fennell,
4/4 Robbie Meals, 4/7 Reagan Cassidy,
4/7 Malachi Boone, 4/12 Aubrey Henninger

We will have coffee, snacks, yard games, and crafts as well as 1,000 eggs for the hunting!

EASTER EGG HUNT

April 4, 10 AM
Christ Church South

The Bob Rowlett Memorial Open Golf Tournament

www.christchurchtyler.org/golf-tournament

Friday, May 1, 2026 | 9:00am
Pine Springs Golf Club
5630 CR 334 | Tyler, TX 75708

Proceeds go toward youth scholarships for missions and outreach.

student ministry
Stan Ward
Director of Spiritual Formation

sward@christchurchtyler.org



BELIZE MISSION TRIP

BELIZE

May 30- June 5

Parent information meetings

after church services

3/22 Downtown

3/29 South Campus

For more details contact

sward@christchurchtyler.org

HELP FEED FAITH & FRIENDSHIP ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Every Wednesday evening, our EYC (Episcopal Youth Community) gathers for dinner, games, Bible study, prayer, and real conversations about life and faith. These evenings are where teenagers build friendships, ask honest questions, and grow in their relationship with God.

A simple meal makes it all possible.

We are looking for adults or families willing to provide one meal per quarter (just four meals a year) for our students. If you're hungry for a chance to encourage teenagers, this is a meaningful and practical way to support the next generation of the church.

To learn more or sign up, please contact Dr. Stan Ward.

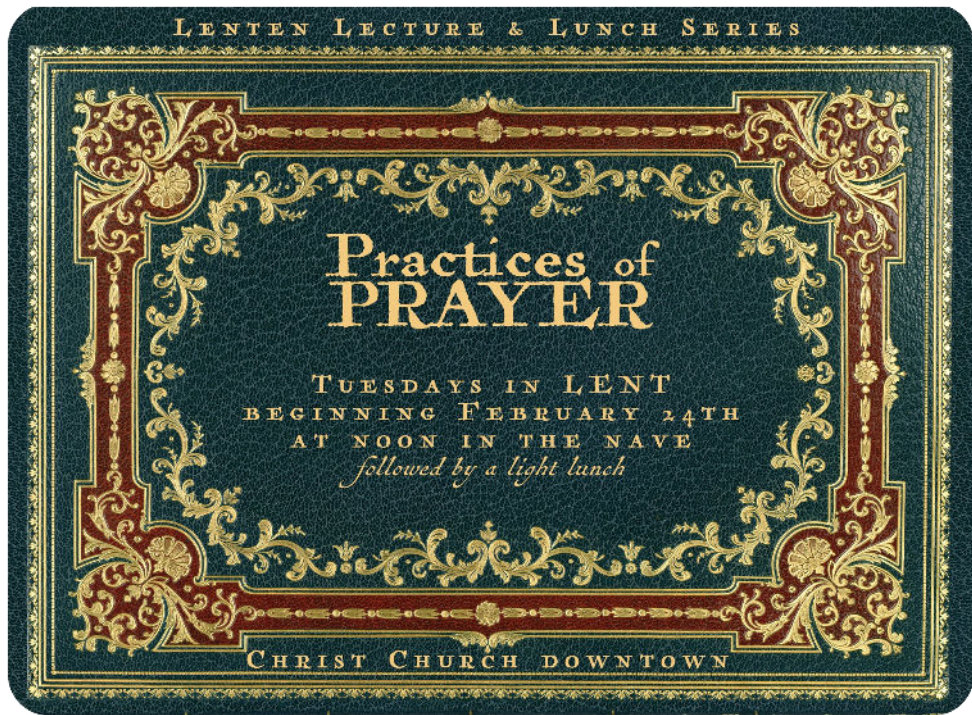
(This Wednesday night rhythm of dinner, games, and teaching is part of the church's intentional structure for youth formation.)

You are invited to participate in the celebration of Easter at Christ Church through the **EASTER FLOWER & MUSIC FUND.**

Scan the QR code below or complete the form (find at the reception desk) if you wish to contribute to the placement of lilies in the church or help to underwrite the music presented Easter Sunday.

Deadline March 29th.

www.christchurchtyler.org/easter-flowers



The Season of Lent



Praying the Rosary

Praying the rosary will be available in the chapel at 11:30am, before each Tuesday Lenten speaking series. Using the rosary (Anglican prayer beads) encourages contemplative prayer. Touching each bead in order helps maintain focus as much as the repetition of the prayers themselves. Prayer beads are available for use. Please come 10 minutes early if you would like instruction.

1928 Book of Common Prayer

Holy Eucharist & Healing Service

Noon Thursdays in Lent
Downtown in the Nave

Lenten Men's Depth Group
Desert Discussions
Conversations about The Temptation

The Listening Lounge
130 Shelley Dr.

LENTEN MEN'S DEPTH GROUP
Meets @ The Listening Lounge, 130 Shelley Dr.
Wednesdays February 25-March 25 6:30am

Women's LENTEN QUIET DAY
Sponsored by Daughters of the King

Saturday, March 21
8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Wellspring Fransalian Center for Spirituality
16828 FM 2964, Whitehouse, TX

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: March 10, 2026
Email madelinejensen@gmail.com or
text Lynne Bordeaux (512) 608-2171
with name, email address & phone number.

www.christchurchtyler.org/DOK

In Our Prayers

Please consider including the Prayer List in your daily devotions:

Luba, Maria, Yeva, YK, Iryna, Nora, Yevgeny, Lisa, Anna Marie, Fred, Owen, Jennifer, Cindy, Earl, Linda, Mike, Mark, Dalton, Marian, Jerry, Stella, Dale, Kirby, Patty, Sarah, Ben, Joshua, Helen, Brinley, Martha, Cooper, Hans, Sarah, CF, Chris, Peggy, Heidi, Luke, Jessica, Rick, Kay, Amber, Tabitha, Mike

The Anglican Communion: *The Diocese of Ughelli (Nigeria)*

The Episcopal Church: *Dioceses of Wyoming & Alabama*

Diocese of Texas: *Holy Innocents—Madisonville & Trinity—Marble Falls*

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Please contact The Rev. Stephen Stine if you'd like to keep or add someone to the prayer list 903.530.8168 or sssti@tjc.edu.

In Memoriam
Our sympathies to the
family & friends of
Mardi Byrd.

Adult Confirmation Course

Sundays, March 1- April 29, 2026
(except Easter Sunday)
10:00am, in the Trinity Room
on the Third Floor of the Grelling-Spence Building
Christ Church Downtown.

The course is open to any adult seeking confirmation in
The Episcopal Church or any confirmed Episcopalian
desiring a refresher course.

upcoming

SATURDAY | March 21
Women's Lenten Quiet Day
8:30am—3:30pm @ Wellspring Center

TUESDAYS March 24
Lenten Lecture & Lunch
Noon | Downtown in the Nave
followed by light lunch in the Parish Hall

THURSDAYS IN LENT
1928 Eucharist
Noon | CCD

THURSDAY | March 26, April 9 & 23
Keys to the Kingdom | Theology Book Study
3:00pm Downtown in the Guild Hall
*RSVP office@christchurchtyler.org

SUNDAY | March 29 Palm Sunday
Picnic in the Pavilion | CCS

HOLY MON—WED | Mar 30-Apr 1
Noon Holy Eucharist | CCD

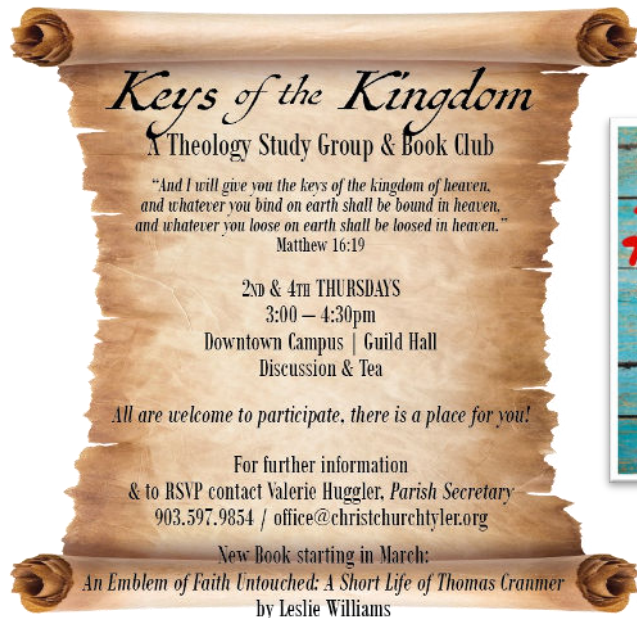
THURSDAY | April 2
Maundy Thursday Rites
7:00pm | Downtown in the Nave

FRIDAY | April 3
Good Friday Liturgy
Noon | Downtown in the Nave
1:15pm Stations of the Cross

SATURDAY | April 4
Easter Egg Hunt
10:00am | Christ Church South
The Great Easter Vigil
8:00pm | Christ Church Downtown

SUNDAY | April 5
EASTER Sunday
7:00am **Sunrise Service** | CCS
7:30am Holy Eucharist | CCD
9:00am Holy Eucharist | CCD
10:00am Easter Reception | CCD & CCS
11:00pm Holy Eucharist | CCD
11:05am Holy Eucharist | CCS

SUNDAY | April 12
Baptisms
Newcomer's Lunch with the Rector | CCD



Keys of the Kingdom
A Theology Study Group & Book Club

"And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven,
and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven,
and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."
Matthew 16:19

2nd & 4th THURSDAYS
3:00 – 4:30pm
Downtown Campus | Guild Hall
Discussion & Tea

All are welcome to participate, there is a place for you!

For further information
& to RSVP contact Valerie Huggler, Parish Secretary
903.597.9854 / office@christchurchtyler.org


New Book starting in March:
An Emblem of Faith Untouched: A Short Life of Thomas Cranmer
by Leslie Williams



Picnic
Under the Pavilion

Last Sunday of the Month
Immediately Following
South Campus Service
Bring your lunch for fun and
fellowship

Holy Baptism



The next scheduled date for baptisms is Sunday, April 12, 2026. If interested in baptism on this date, please contact the church office, 903-597-9854 or office@christchurchtyler.org.



Christ Church | Episcopal
118 S. Bois d'Arc
Tyler, TX 75702

903.597.9854
office@christchurchtyler.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

www.christchurchtyler.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship Services

7:30am **CCD:** The Holy Eucharist *Rite I*

9:00am **CCD:** The Holy Eucharist *Rite II*

11:00am **CCD:** The Holy Eucharist *Rite I*

11:05am~ **CCS:** The Holy Eucharist *Rite II*

~live-streamed christchurchtyler.org

CHRIST CHURCH: ONE CHURCH—TWO CAMPUSES

CCD: Christ Church *Downtown*, 118 S. Bois d' Arc, Tyler, TX 75702 (*office address*)

CCS: Christ Church *South*, 15747 Old Jacksonville Hwy, Tyler, TX 75703

www.christchurchtyler.org | office@christchurchtyler.org

Please Note: *The Crucifer* is published twice monthly (once in July & December).
If you have something you would like to see published in *The Crucifer*, please contact
Samantha Hague at 903-597-9854, shague@christchurchtyler.org.



*The vision of Christ Church is
to be recognized as a joyful,
spirit-filled community of
apostles reaching out and
transforming lives for Christ.*