

"I am the vine, you are the branches; abide in me and you will bear much fruit." John 15:5

Vine & Branches

Monthly News from St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church, 720 N. King Street, Honolulu, HI 96817 • Phone (808) 845-2112

April 2015

The Right Reverend
Robert L. Fitzpatrick
V Bishop of Hawaii

The Reverend
David J. Gierlach
Rector

The Reverend
Imelda S. Padasdao,
Priest Associate

The Reverend Dr.
Gerald G. Gifford,
Rector Emeritus

The Reverend Peter S. M. Fan,
Cantonese Language Priest

Hsiao Ying "Ajaon" Chen
Choir Director

Marie Wang
Organist

Katherine Crosier
Parish Administrator
Editor and Layout
Music Consultant

Caren Esaki
Senior Warden

David Kleinschmidt,
Junior Warden

Dawn Yadao, Secretary

Mary Ann Lentz
Treasurer

Website:
www.stelizabeth720.org

Email:
stelizabethhawaii@gmail.com

Back to the Beginning

Mark 16:1-8
by The Rev. David J. Gierlach

This Easter, we hear about the resurrection of Jesus from St. Mark; who begins his Gospel with these words: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."

And Mark begins not with stories of a babe in the manger, or angels visiting Mary, but with Jesus, a full grown man, coming to the Jordan River — to be baptized by John.

"The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."

And here we are today, at the end of Mark's gospel, and frankly, you might think Mark's typewriter gave out at just the wrong moment.

How else to explain his ending, with the women fleeing in terror and amazement?

It ends even more abruptly if we translate the Greek literally.

"So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; to no one anything they said; afraid they were for..."

The end.

So, come for a moment and wonder....

A young man, wrapped in white, the clothing of the martyrs, sits alone in an otherwise empty tomb, saying something about Jesus being raised, and going on ahead — to where it all began. . .back to Galilee....

Imagine their shock, these exceptionally brave women, the only ones who don't desert Jesus, the only disciples with the guts to stand nearby and watch him die, who gather round him as he is taken off the cross, who follow as he is buried, who come with spices and oils for the final benediction for his body.

They know how to deal with the dead.

But these valiant women are running and trembling and silent because no one knows how to deal with a dead man who refuses to stay dead.

So ends Mark's gospel.

It's a tough ending to swallow.

I don't know about you, but I like my stories to wrap up sensibly and with some finality; that way I can chalk up Jesus rising from the dead as a marvelous one-off miracle, or a fanciful tale; and be done with it.

I can get back to life as usual.

But this ending?

Women running away terrified?

Saying nothing to anyone?

What's going on?

Well, maybe Mark isn't interested in convincing us that Jesus rose from the dead.

Maybe Mark is interested in making us followers of Jesus.

Maybe Mark isn't interested in what we think, maybe he's challenging us to do.

It is in Galilee where it all began; and it is back to the beginning that the young man, dressed in martyr's white, sends the women and the cowardly men; it's back to the beginning, with all of its uncertainty, all of its wonder, all of its doubts; all of its anxieties --- that's where they meet Jesus once again --- and so can we.

Really, you ask?

But I've never left Hawai'i, much less traveled to Galilee.

Ah, but you have.

We go back to Galilee whenever we feed the hungry or visit the sick or clothe the naked.



Rector's Message, continued

We go back to Galilee whenever we erase the lines we so casually draw around people, when we refuse to declare some to be insiders and others outsiders.

We go back to Galilee whenever we choose to live a life of trust in God, but not the kind of trust that says if I'm good, God will reward me.

That's not Christian trust at all.

Christian trust is something much more risky, much more profound.

Christian trust is putting my life -- today -- in the care of God -- letting go of control over people, places and things -- letting go of my fears and anxieties over what the outcome might be, and in that letting go, trusting that all will be well, because today we have the gift of Jesus -- tortured, mocked, nailed and dead -- yet when we go to his tomb, he isn't there...

The grave can't hold him.

He's there, ahead of us, on the way to Galilee....

Perhaps what Mark is saying to us down through these many years is that what we think about death is all wrong.

We think death is the sum and substance of human existence: after all, no one gets out of this life alive, we say; not to mention all of the small deaths we face: illness and loss, even betrayal sometimes.

But maybe, just maybe, "if God can raise someone from the dead in the middle of human history, that very fact reveals that death ... is not inevitable." (J. Alison, *The Joy of Being Wrong*, 118.)

Maybe what Mark is getting at is that the resurrection changes the very nature of who we are: once we were doomed to death; but God, in whom there is no death, makes us children -- and gives us God's life ... a life in which death cannot exist.

"That God is not only able to forgive what we've done, but that God shapes her forgiveness to reach into the very essence of who we are, and changes us, from creatures who are bound to die -- into people over whom death has lost its sting. (*Id.*, *paraphrased.*)

Which doesn't mean all is sunshine and roses.

Our own experience tells us that's not where it's at.

Quite the opposite.

But what if the resurrection is NOT intended to be a marvelous escape from the world's pain and suffering; what if the resurrection is intended to take us directly INTO the world's pain and suffering?

In other words, what if we've been wrong when we think the resurrection defeats the cross?

What if the resurrection explains, even embraces the cross?

Jesus, as we all know, routinely rejects "the rules of respectability" as he eats with taxmen and whores.

Jesus routinely rejects the religious laws by his healing on the sabbath and sending away men intent on stoning to death a woman caught in the very act of adultery.

Jesus routinely rejects the institutions of family and church and state, by announcing his true family is not linked to the womb that bore him but to those who follow him; whose temple is not made of stone but of flesh and blood, whose loyalty is not to the nation, but to the Father who creates all that is.

And for his trouble, Jesus incurs the wrath, the rage, the condemnation of our fine, upstanding, death-dealing institutions." (Jennings, *The Insurrection of the Crucified*, 309, paraphrased.)

Just so, if you say "no" to the powers and principalities of death that still pretend to rule our world, there might be a cross waiting for you too.

In other words, to be a follower of Jesus, to live as Jesus invites us to live, is by necessity to come into conflict with what St Paul calls "the wisdom of the world" - a wisdom that sees God and Jesus as foolish, unrealistic, even crazy.

The brave women fleeing the tomb know this.

That's why they're running!

They are right to be frightened, because discipleship is a frightening thing!

It implies martyrdom, which may be why the young man who greets them in the tomb is clothed in white -- the color of martyrs.

Because the resurrection of Jesus means "that the small "g" god of our civil society, the one who we stamp on our money, the one who blesses our wars and economics and bigotries, that god is a lie. *Id.*

The so-called wise men who tell us that war and economic disparity and dog eat dog are simply the way things shall always be.... it is a lie.

The truth is that the resurrection is God's "yes" to a humanity dying for compassion and gentleness and decency and friendship -- a "yes" that endures all things, hopes all things, believes all things; a "yes," that even when it is killed, refuses to stay dead!

We are called to live lives that reflect the

Rector's Message, continued

life of Jesus; lives of non-violence; lives of self-sacrifice; lives that at the beginning of the day and at its end, place all results, all fears, all hopes, all anxieties into the hands of the good Lord who creates all that is.

It's completely unrealistic, I know.

Yet Jesus calls us to live it not as pie in the sky, nor as a mere private spirituality, but now, in the world, with each other.

No wonder the women flee the tomb in terror.

To trust God is a terrifying thing indeed.

It calls for the surrender of all that we are, individually, communally, and nationally.

It beckons us into a world where the myth that violence can somehow cure what ails us is unmasked for the fraud that it is; and invites us to live within the embrace of the God whose Word calls all things into being.

This is Easter.

Do you dare to go back to the beginning?

Do you dare to go to Galilee?

+amen

Lawyers, Judges and the Micronesian Community



On Saturday April 18 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., in Shim Hall, Hawaii judges, public defenders and prosecuting attorneys will meet

with members of the COFA community to discuss how the relationship between the courts and the COFA community can be improved, to discover areas of common interest and to work together for a better community.

All are welcome!



Food Bank Giveaway



Here's **Charlie Kokubun** at the Food Bank Giveaway Saturday event where, thanks to their generosity, we got to fill our Pantry with tons of good food for absolutely free! Let's say thanks by signing up for the April 18 Foodbank Food Drive!!

A Note To Our Readers

To you dear ones who read this newsletter but can't worship with us, please keep in mind an occasional gift to **St. Elizabeth's PASTORAL FUND**. Every Tuesday at 8 am sharp, there are maybe 30 folks in desperate need of a few bucks to keep the lights on or the roof over head or some food on the table. A little bit of moolah goes a long way in making a HUGE difference in the lives of so many.

And as the wise man once said: **"Money is like manure —it's not worth a thing unless it's spread around...."**

Many thanks and blessings! —Fr. David



Palm Sunday



Palm Sunday showered some soft rain drop blessings on us as we began our Holy Week celebration, with young **Kama** and **Ms Ajaon** leading the way!

‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna!’



Then it was time for Easter, with the sanctuary darkened, everyone took a light that began with the Paschal candle, as from back to front the whole church was illuminated by the light of Christ!



Beryl Goo, Liesl and Bill Eng and Faith Chock make their way around the block and back in record time!



A Full House on Easter Day!



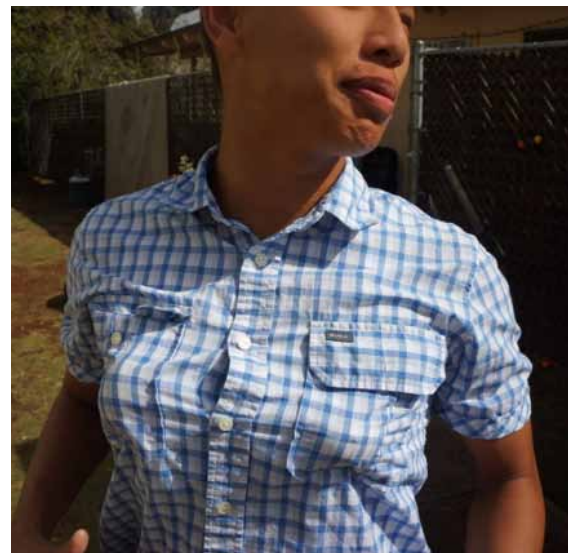
Even with 80 of our Tongan friends off to camp with Pacific Island Ministries, we had a full house for a joyful Easter celebration!



Of course it wouldn't be Easter without St E's world famous international buffet!



The biggest Easter egg hunter--
Doug Ing!



Looks like **Daniel** found a new place to hide Easter Eggs!



Bishop Bob Fitzpatrick and the newly confirmed **Mosese Langi**

PIM Easter Camp

Pacific Island Ministries hosted a long weekend camp out and Easter Sunday confirmation in which 35 from St E's were confirmed and many more joined in the fun!



Attendance

Sunday, March 1 Eucharists & Vespers	220
Wednesday, March 4 Eucharists	47
Sunday, March 8 Eucharists & Vespers	223
Wednesday, March 11 Eucharist	23
Sunday, March 15, Eucharists & Vespers	198
Wednesday, March 18 Eucharist	14
Sunday, March 22 Eucharists & Vespers	181
Wednesday, March 25 Eucharist	17
Palm Sunday, March 29	255
Wednesday, April 1 Eucharist	43
Maundy Thursday, April 2	38
Good Friday, April 3	77
Easter Day, April 5	225
Easter Confirmation, April 5	80



26th Annual Food Drive Day



Saturday, April 18, 2015 is our official Food Drive Day!

Early Birds: 8:00 am – NOON
Movers & Shakers: 11:30 to 3:00
Energizers: 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

SITES: Koko Marina Center, McCully Shopping Center, Pearl City Shopping Center, Mililani Town Center, Waikeola Congregational Church, Waterfront Plaza

Easter Lilies

Thanks to all who contributed beautiful Easter lilies in memory or in honor of loved ones.

Jerry & Aileen Albert
Nancy Au

Caridad Badua
Sarah & Jerry Bush
Pius Casiano
Patsy & Stuart Ching
Akiu Chock family
Sue Jean Chun family
Millie & Jerry Goo
Lotus & Michael Heltz
Keith Ho
Allen K. Hoe
Tom & Peggy Ishida
Estella Iwerks
Dorothy Jung
Walter K. H. Kam

James Kealoha Ohana
Mildred Kuniyoshi
Preston & Mary Ann
Lentz
Juliette Ling
Soane Lino

Maile Nicholas
Helen N. Onoye
Isabel Padasdao

Dolores Peralta
Tomas Ramos

In honor of the Liu family
Reginald K. K. Au, Robert & Rose Shim, Herbert
Y. F. Shim

Matilde, Elpidio Badua, Edna Barbosa
Nathaniel & Anne Chock, Jennifer Bush
The recent deceased of St. Elizabeth's
Richard & Lucy Ching, Kenneth T. K. Ching
James L. L. Chock, Yuk Oi Dang
Walter T. H. Chun

In thanksgiving
Harriet & Lawson Green, Stewart Green
Kenneth Ho
Lt. Nainoa Hoe, in honor of RagDolls2Love

Linda H. Ishida
Yuen Lin & Stella Ho Lau
Richard Jung; Ten Fook Ho & Mabel Ho
Raymond & Lily Tyau Kam, Lorene Kam Ching,
Ramona Kam Peterson
Lilinoe, Kimo, Kealii Kealoha
Johnny Kuniyoshi
Our parents and grandparents

Alim and Elizabeth Ling
Saimone, Viliami, Pamela Lino;
Fonuku Tevi
Nobuo Oshita, Tom See-Foon, and Arthur Woo
Jiro Onoye, Isao Onoye
Severo & Edgar Padasdao, Ricardo & Perpetua
Mabini
Alfred Peralta, Liza Raporas
Henry & Senang Ramos,
Lilian Agtarap

Delphine Shea

Lynette Shim

Margarita Suyat

Faye Tsukamoto
Frank & Sue Yap

Larry & Arleen Young

Genaro Agrade, Teilitas
Corpuz
Wallace Shim, Edward
& Florence Shim,
Dennis & Laura Chun,
Gerwin Akaka
Thanks almighty God
for all his blessings
Jack & Masa Tsukamoto
Christina Yap, Florence
Yap, Frank K. L. Yap
Sr., Lina Doo
Tim Chong & Juliet
Young



Come meet the Bishop! **Spaghetti Dinners** **to resume**

Friday, April 17, 6:00-8:00 pm
Shim Hall

Bishop Bob Fitzpatrick will be making his annual visit to St. Elizabeth's on this evening.





Happy Birthday

God's blessings on those with
April birthdays!

Nora Kurosu	4/1
Mother Imelda Padasdao	4/1
Anau Tokomaata	4/1
Shawnalyn Sunagawa	4/2
Brillan Tulenkun	4/2
Apolonia Madriaga	4/3
Sharon Oshiro	4/3
Kit Hawkins	4/6
Ka'alaneo Blaisdell-Higa	4/6
Concisa Bartoline	4/7
Joelynne Tagle	4/7
Tasy Robert	4/8
Father David Gierlach	4/8
Santereen Kom	4/9
Dolores Peralta	4/10
Sulieti Lotaki	4/10
Alberta Eng	4/11
Belinda Chung	4/12
Flora Wong	4/12
Michael Young	4/14
Lauren Ho	4/16
Puanani Woo	4/17
Kenneth Nagamine	4/18
Herminio Resurreccion	4/19
Juan Ramos	4/22
Siaosi Tokomaata	4/24
Ellen Tom	4/25
Craig Kokobun	4/25
Chan Anaya	4/27
Joey Gierlach	4/28
Darrell Lum	4/28
Gilbert Batangan	4/29
Kayli Ho	4/29
Richard Ching	4/30
Lily Ho	4/30
Ralph Arellano	4/30

Born to Eternal Life



Christine Ling passed into life eternal on April 4.

A service of thanksgiving will be held at St. Elizabeth's on Saturday, **April 25**.

Visitation is at 10:00, burial service will be at 11:00 am. A luncheon will follow in Shim Hall.

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death, and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that your servant, Christine, being raised with him, may know the strength of his presence, and rejoice in his eternal glory; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Basketball Team in Training



Coach **Daniel Yuen-Schat** says the team is working hard to get in shape for Basketball Season.