

"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

May 2011

The Right Reverend
Robert L. Fitzpatrick
V Bishop of Hawaii

The Reverend
David J. Gierlach
Rector

The Reverend
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Priest Associate

The Reverend Saimone Lino,
Diocesan Missioner

The Reverend Dr.
Gerald G. Gifford.
Rector Emeritus

The Reverend Peter S. M. Fan,
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Home Free

The Reverend David J. Gierlach

On Good Friday, driving to Church, my radio suddenly jumped to the Evangelical station.

I like listening to those preachers sometimes.

They say it so well, even if what they say is sometimes bizarre.

This particular preacher was going on about "justice."

About keeping our streets safe and punishing criminals.

About softheaded judges who let criminals go free.

Softheaded judges who know nothing of God's justice.

Slaps on the wrist, he said, offend God, he said.

Withholding punishment from the guilty offends God, he said.

That he said these things on Good Friday, with Easter just around the corner, —well, it got me thinking—what about God's justice?

In truth, God's justice is terribly softheaded.

God's justice is a travesty.

God's justice makes a mockery of our justice.

In God's justice, an innocent dies for the guilty.

In God's justice, the worst kind of pre-meditated murder is met, not with vengeance, but with forgiveness.

In God's justice, the men who deserted him are welcomed back, the men who slay him are absolved.

That is what we gather here this morning to remember.

The itch that so many need to scratch is the belief that life is a deal. You do this, and I'll do that. You and I will scratch each other's back.

In the Latin it's: *quid pro quo*. This for that.

And you know what, that life makes sense.

That life seems fair. That life I can walk around in.

Even the Church loves that life.

And in that life, the Church, sometimes with the very best of intentions, transforms the light of Christ from the sun that shines freely, and for free, on everyone, into a kind of electric company Jesus, where we must pay the bill each month (by doing good deeds, by giving stuff up, by walking on the right side of the road, by believing exactly the right way).

And if we don't pay the bill, the juice is cut off, and there we are, sitting in the dark.

That's the kind of God that the radio preacher had in mind the other morning.

A "tit for tat" God.

And if you think about it, I'll bet lots of us here prefer that kind of God.

Because with that God, I have a say.

With that God, I have some control.

I do "A" for God and God will do "B" for me.

Cool.

We human beings, it seems, love to be in control.

So give me the God who rewards the



Rector's Message (cont.)

just and punishes the sinner.

Give me the God who puts bad guys in jail so good guys can walk the streets safely at night. That's the Jesus I want!

But the mystery of Jesus Christ is not that.

It is this: that the light of the world really does shine on you and on me, and it shines on the Dalai Lama and it shines on Osama bin Ladin. It shines on Kim Jung Il and it shines on the Archbishop of Canterbury. It shines on the drunk asleep at the bus stop, and it shines on Donald Trump.

It shines on us all.

For no charge.

For free.

For nothing.

All because this bizarre, upside down God who does anything and everything to have us, wants it to be so.

And there is great wisdom in this.

How much mischief do we create when we divide the world into the good guys and the bad?

How much mischief do we create when we decide how God should judge them folks over there?

We don't have far to look.

A minister in Florida burns the Holy Koran, and hundreds are injured or killed half a world away.

Human judgment and human vengeance are poor substitutes for the will of God.

We pray each Sunday for the holy catholic church.

"Catholic" meaning universal.

The church is not catholic because everyone belongs to it. They don't now and probably never will.

The church is catholic because it is a sign to the world that God, in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, has reconciled himself to every last one of us.

From Adam to Zachary and everyone in between, from every where and every when, for good, for ever.

As one priest puts it: "This means that the mystery of Christ is present not just in Christians or in good guys, but present in sinners right in the midst of their sins.

It means that the mystery isn't something that picks up its lily-white skirts and runs away when someone does a no-no. The mystery is everywhere." Capon, *The Mystery of Christ*, 65-66.

Don't take my word for it. Just look at Jesus.

Jesus hangs out with prostitutes and tax sharks. He eats, drinks and laughs with the worst sorts of people, the losers, the cheats, even the traitors.

He embraces them just as he embraces us, just as we are: with

all of our gifts, with all of our rottenness.

By raising Jesus from the dead, God announces the great "YES" to all that Jesus said and did; and to all that Jesus refused to do too.

What God does in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is to marry us, for better or for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health.

All because this softheaded judge, who lets the guilty off the hook, will stop at nothing to have us.

As the women approach the tomb, they expect to anoint a corpse.

What they encounter is an earthquake and a cheeky angel who rolls away a stone and plops himself down on top of it.

As the women run, in their terror and in their joy, they run headlong into the risen Lord himself.

No one expects this.

No one foresees this.

And quite frankly, at first, no one really wants it.

A dead Messiah is understandable. Israel was littered with them.

Life always ends in death; we all know that. That conviction is what fuels our need to fix things, to run things, to control things.

Except, with God, everything is turned inside out.

The same God who invades Mary's womb at Christmas today invades the tomb where Jesus lay.

Everyone knows that virgins don't conceive and the dead stay dead. But with God, the child is born, and Jesus is raised.

Where there is no way, God makes a way.

Just when it seems for all the world that revenge rules, forgiveness is given.

Just when it seems the world is all about death, God raises the dead to life.

Just when you think you have the meaning of life all figured out, Jesus stands before you saying, "don't be afraid."

What all of this means to me is that our salvation is not in our own hands.

It's out of our control.

God does it for us.

Rector's Message (cont.)

All we need to do is let the scales fall from our eyes and see what has been there all along.

It is God whose arms are outstretched.

It is God who is welcoming us home.

All we need do is say Thank you.

All we need do is accept that despite all the evidence to the contrary, we are accepted. We are accepted. We are accepted.

This is the miracle of resurrection!

This is the miracle of our salvation!

Thanks be to God!

+amen.



News From the Garden

What's growing in the garden you ask? How 'bout red strawberries, new Manoa lettuce, papaya from the island of King

Kong (really, these papaya are 20 feet long and 3000 pounds --- I'm only slightly exaggerating), taro, mint, Italian parsley, tomatoes, sweet potatoes and more!



Slippers For Free!!

Uncle **Lowell Ing** has graciously donated 3 million pairs of rubber slippers for those in need. Sizes range from small to large, and if you or any of your kids are

in need, please see Fr. David or **Mrs. Terno** for a fitting.

Money Matters

First quarter donations are up **11% over last year.** Thank you all for your continued financial support for St. E's ministry. Remember our goal to have pledges cover **60% of our annual operating budget.** Please continue to do what you can to meet that goal!!

St. E's can now accept donations via credit card: **Visa, Master Card and American Express!** Let's see, hmmm, **air miles** for pledges, **reward points** for pledges, **discounted hotel and rental car rates** for pledges, and the list goes on! Call the office for more information, 845-2112.



(L-R) Laura Iwami, Nora Kurosu, Faith Chock and Jamie Chock

ECW Meeting

On April 9th, The Episcopal Church Women held its meeting at St. Elizabeth's. ECW delegates **Laura Iwami, Nora Kurosu, Faith Chock** and **Jamie Chock** hosted about 25 ladies. We started with morning devotions with Father Gierlach. ECW President Louise Aloy taught us how to fold crosses with coconut palm leaves that she brought from Maui! Father Saimone said a luncheon prayer. Also enjoying the fellowship were **Lillian Tyau, Margarita Suyat, Akiu Chock** and **May Chock.** Sprigs of Father David's basil (prepared by Jamie and Akiu) were given as favors. This brought great conversation about growing and using basil!

A big mahalo to **Nancy Au** and **Ignacia Terno** for their help and to **Lani Kealoha** and all who generously brought food.

Food, fun, fellowship the St. E's way!

*Support St. E's
when you shop on-line!!*

Log on to:

**www.marketamerica.com/
stelizabeth720**

and then shop anywhere on the net!

Getting Ready for Holy Week at St. Elizabeth's



An army of volunteers from Bank of Hawaii and the Honolulu Community Action Program brightened Shim Hall with a shiny new coat of paint. Thank you for your great work!



An All-Parish Work Day on April 16th preceded the Holy Week festivities. Here the youth of St. Elizabeth's practice being gladiators!



Thurifer Stuart Ching leads the Palm Sunday procession.



Who says youngsters don't come to church?!



"The King of Glory comes, the nation rejoices. Open the gates before him, lift up your voices."



Akiu Chok (right) helps to dye Easter eggs.



Worshippers were warmly greeted before the service.



*On Easter Day, we welcomed into the Lord's Family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism **Laurie Cockeran, Shilo Ramelb** (parents Cheryl Visitacion and Camillo Ramelb) and **Kermelo Cadee Malosi White** (parents Otega and Janyrah White)*

Easter Day

A beautiful day, a truly wonderful liturgy, before the service, children handed out key chain crosses cross-stitched by **Peggy Ishida**, blessed by Fr David; and candles for each worshiper to participate in the opening liturgy as we lit the Paschal Candle and passed on the flame, until the whole church was



*It was wonderful to see Rector Emeritus, **Dr. Gerald Gifford** and his wife, **Polly**, on Easter Day.*

filled with the light of Christ.

Following the Easter service, the children enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt, and everyone had a fun and fullfilling Easter fellowship in Shim Hall. There was lots of food, fun and Easter joy!



***Tom Ishida** helps Fr. David light the Paschal Candle at the beginning of the Easter service.*



The Easter Egg Hunt is on!



The food at the Champagne Potluck Brunch was FABULOUS!

May Day Queen



Congratulations to **Shawnalyn W.C. Sunagawa**, daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. David Sunagawa**, who was named Queen of the St. Andrew's Priory 2011 May Day celebration! Shawnalyn presided over the May Day events and concluded the ceremonies with a beautiful hula, La'ieikawai. Well done!

Quotable Quotes

"To be **human** is to **change**, to be **perfect** is to have changed many times."—Cardinal Newman

Tell all the truth but tell it **slant** . . .
Too **bright** for our infirm Delight
The Truth's superb surprise!
The Truth must dazzle **gradually**
Or every man be **blind**. —Emily Dickinson

The most **beautiful thing** we can experience is the **mysterious**. It is the source of all true art and all science. He to whom this "emotion" is a stranger, who can no longer pause to **wonder**, or stand rapt in **awe**, is as good as dead. His eyes are closed. —Albert Einstein

No one catches the wild ass by running, and yet only those who **run** ever catch the wild ass. Just so, no one **comes to God** just by **loving and suffering**, yet only those who have **loved and suffered** seem to **come to God** more deeply. —Richard Rohr

Church Meeting

Please mark on your calendars: **May 22nd**. There will be an all-church meeting after the service to discuss **our church programs and uses**.



Spaghetti Dinner & Dance

As promised, our monthly Spaghetti Dinner/Dance under the Stars is back! We had a wonderful time on Friday April 29 with **Alii Napoleon** and friends preparing the ono-licious sauce complete with ground beef, sausage, multi-colored peppers and his own secret ingredient (perfectly legal, he says) along with salads and fruits and of course, a sip of the vine to boot! Thank you **Auntie Nancy** and the **Kitchen Angels** for your very hard work!! The brave ones danced under the moonlight! Please join us for the next one, **May 27** from 6 – 8 pm when we may have a **real live Congo line dance instructor!!**



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Easter Lilies

Thanks to all who donated money for Easter lilies:

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Harold Abe | in memory of Jeffrey Abe |
| Aileen & Jerry Albert | in memory and in honor of the Liu family |
| Nancy Au | in memory of Reginald K. K. Au, Robert and Rose Shim |
| Sarh & Jeremy Bush | in memory of Anna & Nathaniel Chock, Jennifer A. Bush |
| Patsy Ching | In memory of Kenneth T.K. Ching and Lucy and Richard C. Ching |
| Chock Family | in memory of James L. L. Chock |
| Chun Family | in memory of Walter T. H. Chun |
| Millie & Jerry Goo | in memory of Jean Thom and Carolyn Andreotti |
| Beryl Goo | in memory of Doris Goo |
| Mr. & Mrs. Michael Heltz | in memory of Harriet & Lawson Green, Stewart Green |
| Allen K. Hoe | In memory of 1LT Nainoa Hoe and in honor of RagDolls2Love |
| Lowell Ing | in memory of Pat and Leslie Ing |
| Tom & Peggy Ishida | in memory of Linda H. Ishida |
| Laura Iwami | in memory of Masayoshi & Haru Iwami |
| Gretchen Jong | In memory of Walter Kau and Grace and Harry Goo |
| Dorothy Jung | in memory of Richard Jung |
| Pearl & Francis Kau | In memory of Joscelind Zee, Ruth Fung and Ten Fook and Mabel Ho |
| Kealoha Ohana | in memory of Lilinoe Kealoha Wong and James Kealoha III |
| Charles & Judy Kokubun | In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Minoru Nakaishi, Mr. and Mrs. T. Kokubun, Paul, Lillian and Takeo Kokubun |
| Mildred Kuniyoshi | in memory of Johnny Kuniyoshi |
| Preston & Maryann Lentz | in memory and in honor of our family and friends |
| Raymond & Etta Leong | in memory of Lo Lin Leong, Kin Hung Leong and Ukie Kihara |
| Christine Ling | in memory of Alim Ling |
| Juliette Ling | in memory of Elizabeth Ling |
| Helen Onoye | in memory of Jiro Onoye |
| Rev. Imelda Padasdao | In memory of Florentino and Marie Padasdao, Avelino & Elmer Padasdao, Triponia Abad, Leocado, Emilia & Lorenzo |
| Iris Park | in memory of the Shigenaga and Takai families |
| Redemption Ramos | In memory of Demia Ramos |
| Lynette Shim | in memory of Wallace Shim, Gervin Akana, Dennis & Laura Chun |
| Faye Tsukamoto | in memory of Jack & Masa Tsukamoto, Elizabeth Wong and Walter Kau |
| Marjory Tyau | in memory of Wilfred Tyau, Dr. Steven Tyau, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Tyau, Dr. and Mrs. George Tyau |
| Sheryll Visitacion | In honor of Shiloho's baptism |
| Thomas K Woo | in memory of Rev. Yee Bew Woo & family |
| Frank Yap Family | in memory of Christina Yap, Florence Yap and Frank Yap, Sr. |
| Arleen Young | in memory of Tim Chong & Juliet Young and Yomoichi & Tatsuo Mukai |



For over
100 years,
members
have
remembered

St. E's in their wills.
Please do the same
so our ministry
can continue
for another 100 years.

Happy Birthday

*God's blessings on those with
May birthdays!*

| | |
|---------------------|------|
| Richard Haller | 5/2 |
| Taylor Venenciano | 5/3 |
| Jeannie Pang | 5/3 |
| Evelyn Tyau | 5/4 |
| Rev. Gerald Gifford | 5/4 |
| Mermi Dereas | 5/4 |
| Leslie Mitsuka | 5/5 |
| Preston Lentz | 5/8 |
| Katherine Roke | 5/8 |
| Jessie Hayashi | 5/10 |
| Margie Leong | 5/10 |
| Felicidad Bueno | 5/12 |
| Harold Shak | 5/13 |
| Inoleen Eichy | 5/13 |
| Liesl Eng | 5/14 |
| Rowena Blaisdell | 5/15 |
| Iwickson Este | 5/15 |
| Chase Pacupac | 5/18 |
| Shirley Lau | 5/22 |
| Ruby Au | 5/24 |
| Dwight Kokubun | 5/25 |
| May Chock | 5/26 |
| Helen Tom | 5/26 |
| Greg Smith | 5/26 |
| Marjory Tyau | 5/28 |
| Dorothy Jung | 5/31 |

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A House of Prayer for all People

Return service requested

God's kids say the funniest things

On Mother's Day in a Baton Rouge (LA) church, the pastor in the children's sermon asked the kids: "On Mother's Day, if your mother asks you to do something for her and you are watching a movie, are on the computer, or just playing with friends, what do you do?" The instantaneous response was, "You put it on pause."

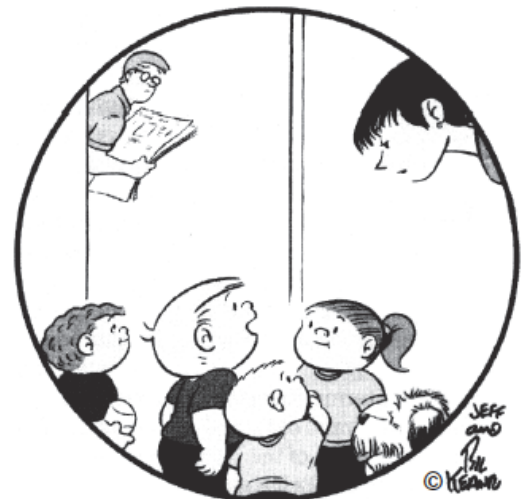
—Columnist Smiley Anders, Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate



Attendance

| | | |
|------|------------------------|-------|
| 4/3 | Sunday 8:15 | 152 |
| 4/3 | Ilokano Service | 58 |
| 4/6 | Wed. Healing Eucharist | 24 |
| 4/6 | Wed. Ilokano Service | 35 |
| 4/10 | Sunday 8:15 am | 134 |
| 4/10 | Chinese Service | 5 |
| 4/13 | Wed. Healing Eucharist | 23 |
| 4/17 | Palm Sunday 8:15 am | 150 |
| 4/17 | Chinese Service | 6 |
| 4/21 | Maundy Thursday | 41 |
| 4/22 | Good Friday | 57+50 |
| 4/24 | Easter Sunday 8:15 am | 278 |
| 4/27 | Wed. Healing Eucharist | 19 |

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



**"We voted and on Father's Day
 Daddy gets to play with us ALL DAY!"**

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*
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"I got a package the other day, but when it arrived it was all damp.

I complained at the Post Office, and they said it must have postage dew."

—via Joyful Noiseletter