



Mountain Herald

The Church of The Transfiguration

6909 Maryland Avenue

Braddock Heights, MD 21714

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Although short, the "getaway" trip that Kim and I took to Maryland's Eastern Shore after our wedding couldn't have been lovelier or more relaxing. Oxford, where we stayed, is a sleepy little town, with tree-lined streets and well-kept public parks, affording views of the Chesapeake Bay and adjoining rivers and estuaries. Nearby St. Michaels still shows evidence of its heritage as a working seaport; and bustling Easton is host to a vibrant arts community. Between these towns stretch the broad marshlands and tributaries that characterize the Eastern Shore, dotted by stately cypress trees and filled with a startling abundance and variety of wildlife.

Kim and I couldn't help but be moved by this natural beauty. Yet at the same time we knew that on these lands once stood slave plantations on which Americans of African descent toiled without pay or promise, under constant threat of the lash and of being sold again, and with perilous escape their only hope of freedom. The vistas that Kim and I viewed with such pleasure, our enslaved forbears saw only as a setting for their daily oppression. The landscape we delighted in they saw only as a cruel mockery, a bitter reminder of a country that considered them nothing more than useful property.

"In thinking of America," Frederick Douglass sadly wrote, "I sometimes find myself admiring her bright blue sky, . . . her mighty lakes, and star-crowned mountains. But my joy is soon turned to mourning, . . . when I remember that with the waters of her noblest rivers, the tears of my brethren are borne to the ocean, disregarded and forgotten, and that her most fertile fields drink daily of the warm blood of my outraged sisters--I am filled with unutterable loathing."

These were more sobering reflections than I'm sure Kim and I had expected to share on a honeymoon trip! Still, it is important always to remember the 'moral landscape' of our country's haunted past, recalling times when our ideals and our actions did not agree, when the beauty around us was not reflected in the justice and love expected of us. We do this not solely to dwell in guilt or remorse. We do it rather to ensure that we will never forget the wrong, and so will ever be vigilant in promoting the right. We do it as we seek to make the fruits of God's Kingdom and the promise of America's founding a reality for all.

In that spirit and with that hope, Kim and I returned home greatly renewed. And so we take up again the ministry God has called us to--working with all of you whom we cherish and love, and to whom we are so grateful, working together for the sake of a newer, better world, daily envisioned and created in Christ's name.

Blessings,
Fr. Gordon +



August 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
Reverend Jay Croft will be joining us again for the 10:15 service on our Feast Day, August 6. An interpreter will sign the service for our deaf visitors and will interpret Rev. Croft's sermon for the hearing.		9:00a Morning Prayer	9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 7:00p Vespers/ Rite of Healing	9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA	9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 8:30p AA	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Feast of the Transfiguration Healing - both services 8:00a H.E. II 9:00a Christian Ed 10:15a H.E. II/hymns 11:15a Hospitality	9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA		12:00p AA	12:00p AA	12:00p AA 8:30p AA	
Rector Vacation						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:00a H.E. II 9:00a Christian Ed 10:15a H.E. II/hymns 11:15a Hospitality	9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 7:30p Outreach	Feast of St. Mary the Virgin 9:00a Morning Prayer 7:00p B&F	9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 7:00p Vespers/ Rite of Healing	9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA	9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 8:30p AA	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:00a H.E. II 9:00a Christian Ed 10:15a H.E. II/hymns 11:15a Hospitality 11:45a Vestry	9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA	9:00a Morning Prayer	9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 7:00p Vespers/ Rite of Healing	Feast of St. Bartholomew the Apostle 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA	9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 8:30p AA	
27	28	29	30	31	The full edition of The Mountain Herald will return next month	
8:00a H.E. II 9:00a Christian Ed 10:15a H.E. II/hymns 11:15a Hospitality	9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 6:30p Men's Dinner	9:00a Morning Prayer	9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 7:00p Vespers/ Rite of Healing	9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA		

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Nate Bollino	8/5	Jim & Judy Hubbard	8/20	Dick Salmon+	8/28
Evelyn Holsapple	8/5	Marie Strasser	8/22	Cindy Staup	8/29
Erin Evans	8/6	Katie Groth	8/25	Judy Hubbard	8/30
Matthew Holsapple	8/12	Daniel Holsapple	8/25	Frank & Judy Willson	8/30
Keith & Marie Strasser	8/13	Marusia Zearfoss	8/26	Helen Schley	8/31
Scott Myers	8/14	Jamie Staup	8/28	Christine Traini	8/31
George Roberts	8/15				

Sunday Services: 8:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.
Morning Prayer: 9:00 a.m. Monday - Friday
Vespers with Rite of Healing: Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

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