



# The Epistle

The Episcopal Church of St. Paul—Chatham, NJ  
April 2006

## “A Covenant Written on the Heart”

*by the Reverend Elizabeth Kaeton, Rector and Pastor*

Those are words from the prophet Jeremiah. We heard them in church the last Sunday in Lent. “I will make a new covenant with Israel and a new house with Judah . . . I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.” (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Contracts are a way of life in this post-modern world. Even prenuptial agreements have made their way into the topics of conversation I have with couples who come to me for premarital counseling. I suppose, in this litigious environment, there is some wisdom to this practice. Even when things are written down, every ‘t’ crossed and ‘i’ dotted, there can still be bumps in the road – different interpretations or memories of what was meant.

But, a covenant written on the heart. . . . Now, there’s a contract that’s hard to break. It can’t be ripped to shreds like words written on paper. Neither can it be broken to bits like commandments chiseled on stone tablets. When there is a breach of contract or betrayal of trust – if anything is shredded or shattered – it is the heart.

This is the nature of the covenant God has with us as Easter people. It is an incarnational trust which moves us beyond the law and into the spirit of righteousness. It was begun in the heart of the young prophet Jeremiah. It was held in the heart of Jesus at Calvary. It remains in the hearts of each of the baptized and frees us to be obedient to the law of God, not because we ‘should’ or ‘must’ but because it is simply part of who we are as children of God.

The laws of God are as much a part of our identity in Christ as our baptismal name.

As we enter into the Easter Season, I wish you the deep joy the apostles knew. May the covenant which is written in your heart lead you to know the unconditional love of God, the exhilarating liberation of Christ and the passionate desire of the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and our minds to honor and recognize the divine spark that is held within us all.

Happy Easter!

# Rose ('Mothering') Sunday Celebrated at St. Paul's with New Vestments

*by the Reverend Elizabeth Kaeton, Rector and Pastor*

When The Episcopal Church of St. Paul in Chatham received a bequest from the estate of Ruth Pring, a faithful former member of the Altar Guild, it was decided to honor her life as well as her generosity with a set of Rose Vestments. Because she was a practical, frugal woman it was also decided to make the vestments reversible so they might also be used on Palm Sunday and during Holy Week.

The Rose Vestments were designed by Colleen Hintz in collaboration with the rector, Elizabeth Kaeton, and the co-chairs of the Altar Guild, Betty Williams and Ann Bennett. The fabric is Dupioni silk, which is made by placing two silk worms into one cocoon. As the silk threads are unwound the fibers sometime come out singly and sometimes in tangles - it is woven exactly as it comes from the cocoon thus creating the wondrous, irregular, occasionally "bumpy" texture. It is also sometimes referred to as "raw" silk for the same reason. The rose color is soft and the vestments bear two symbols which reflect both the incarnation and the crucifixion of Jesus.

Since the Middle Ages, Rose or 'Mothering' Sunday has been part of the Anglican liturgical tradition. It began, however, as a cultural tradition which, like many church rituals, was co-opted from the secular and made sacred.

It was common, among the gentry in England, to allow the servants, in the midst of 'the bleak midwinter', to 'go home to mother' and visit their families. Frequently, this time came in the midst of Lent. 'Mothering Sunday,' as it was known in the culture, became 'Rose Sunday' in the church – on the fourth Sunday in Lent. Many local congregations were encouraged to visit 'Mother Church' that Sunday – very often, the local cathedral – and receive a special benediction by the bishop.

The liturgical seasonal color of purple associated with penitence was changed to the color rose – an association with Mary, the mother of Jesus – the 'Rose of Sharon' (Song of Solomon 2:1). When the Season of Advent was instituted, it was often considered a 'mini' Lent, and the third Sunday was often given this distinction. The purple or blue liturgical color for Advent was also changed to rose – just for this one day.

One of the symbols on the vestments is the Glastonbury Rose – an exquisite flower which also bears the sharpest of thorns, like those that were plaited onto Our Lord's passion crown. The tale told by the Monks of Glastonbury is that when Joseph of Arimathea brought Christianity to England in AD 63, he supposedly brought both the Holy Grail and planted the Glastonbury Thorn. From this thorn a rose bush grew and blooms twice a year – once in winter and once in the spring. The Queen always has a bowl of Glastonbury roses on her table during Advent – a gift from the monks of Glastonbury. (Glastonbury is also in mystical Avalon and the bodies of King Arthur and Lady Guinevere were reportedly first buried in the monastery there.)

The second image is that of the Holly and the Ivy which is placed on the Yule log as symbol of the deaths in our lives and hope for the re-greening of creation. The pointed,

sharp ivy recall the suffering of Jesus. The red berries of the Holly symbolize both the humanity of Jesus which we know in the Incarnation as well as his Crucifixion.

The same Dipioni silk is used on the reverse side, which is a deep red, the color of Passiontide. It is worn on Palm Sunday, the Sunday of the Passion of our Lord, and all through Holy Week – Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. The palm frond is the only symbol used on the vestments, but it is the large fond which was, and continues to be, used in Jerusalem in the reenactment of the glorious entrance of Jesus into the city. It curls around the priestly stole, from the bottom of one end, up around the neck and down the other side. It also resides on the altar frontal, lectern and pulpit hangings, as well as on the burse, pall, and frontal. Its gentle curves are reminiscent of the palms that may have once lined His cradle. The Tau cross, reportedly the most accurate rendering of the historical cross, is at the juncture of the two ends of the stole at the nape of the neck.

These vestments were dedicated and blessed to the Glory of God and in memory of Ruth Pring on Sunday, March 19th, being Lent III and were used for the first time on Rose Sunday, Lent IV, March 26, 2006.

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## Lenten Music Meditations

Thanks to those who have shared their musical talents with us for our Wednesday musical meditation programs and for the lovely prayer services and luncheons that followed: Don Webster-tenor, Joe La Vela on his soprano, alto and bass recorders, Eva Curtis, flutist and Alex Garrido-Brosnan Soprano. The last two performance will be Mary Jo Oakley, soprano on April 5th assisted by Rachel Reina on flute, and the programs will end on April 12th with a program on the organ by Linda Eriksen.. Don't miss our last few programs.

### HOLY WEEK and EASTER

We celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with special music throughout the season.

March 9th – 10:00 Palm Sunday – Jazz procession and special seasonal anthems

March 13th – 7:30 - Maundy Thursday service

March 14th – 7:30 – Good Friday

March 15th – 7:30 - Easter Vigil

## EASTER SUNDAY ( 9:50 A.M.)

Our Easter Sunday celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ will begin with special prelude music for brass, organ and timpani at 9:50. Please come early to get a good seat and hear our wonderful brass ensemble. The Festival Choir (combined Parish and Junior Choirs) will lead the service and we invite anyone who would like to sing the Hallelujah Chorus to come up at the end of the service and join us. There will be a special rehearsal for anyone interested in singing with us on Palm Sunday immediately after worship. Music will be provided.

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## What's Up with Youth Group!

### Youth Group

In the month of April, Youth Group will only meet once on Sunday, April 9th because of Easter and the Chatham break. In the month of April, the High School Youth Group will celebrate the birthdays of Patrick James and Bryan Ferguson. The Middle School Youth Group will celebrate the birthday of Taylor Rea. As always please remember to bring a small donation to help cover the cost of food, drinks and birthday cake.

### Easter Chocolate fundraiser

Once again, J. Emanuel Chocolatier is sponsoring our Easter Chocolate fundraiser for our 2006 Mission Trip. The youth participants will receive 40% of their total chocolate sales towards their mission trip balance. If you haven't purchased your Easter chocolate yet, we've made it simple for you to support our youth by doing your Easter chocolate shopping online @ <http://www.jemanuel.com/St-Pauls-Youth-Group-Fund-Raiser-C37.aspx> Remember at checkout to enter code SPYG06 so the kids will get the credit towards their mission trip.

### Confirmation Outreach Project

A reminder on Saturday, April 8th, the Confirmation Class will be doing an outreach project with the Interfaith Food Pantry in Morristown. We will meet at 12:30pm at St. Paul's and carpool over to Morristown. Please make sure you eat lunch before you come as we'll be working hard that afternoon.

### A.C.T. training

On Saturday, April 8th there will be a refresher training session for all A.C.T.s (Acolytes, Crucifers & Torchbearers) at 4pm. Rev. Elizabeth wants to make sure all our A.C.T.s are ready for the many services during Holy Week so please plan to attend this training.

### Battle of the Bands 2006

Once again it's on! Saturday night, April 8th marks the return of Battle of the Bands. This will be our third fundraiser for our 2006 Mission Trip to Somerville, TN and all proceeds go directly to the participants of the mission trip. We have ten bands booked and scheduled to perform. Admission is \$6 and doors open at 6:45pm. Please come out to Battle of the Bands 2006 and support our youth!

### The Children's Lenten Series

The Children's Lenten Series continues on Thursdays from 3:30-4:30pm on April 6th and 13th. During the season of Lent, your children will learn about the stories of Lent leading up to Easter through the Godly Play experience, music and arts & crafts.

### Good Friday Youth Service (Stations & Veneration of the Cross)

Remember Jesus during Holy Week! On Good Friday, April 14th at noon, the Confirmation Class will lead the Good Friday Youth Service which entails the Stations of the Cross & Veneration of the Cross. Children & youth of ALL AGES are encouraged to attend. Parents are welcome to stay and participate.

### W.O.O.D.Y. 2006 (Diocesan High School Retreat)

Save the date! W.O.O.D.Y. 2006 will be held once again at Camp CrossRoads on May 19-21. The theme for this year's retreat is "Behind the Reality". Cost is \$85, but as always, scholarship money is available upon request. Flyers and registration forms will be available in the coming weeks.

April is going to be a busy month. If you have any questions about any of the youth activities and events, please don't hesitate to contact me at the parish office 973-635-8085 or e-mail me at [July212000@hotmail.com](mailto:July212000@hotmail.com)

*Timothy Wong*

*Missioner for Youth & Young Families*

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## Services

***Every Sunday***

8:00 am–9:00 am

Holy Eucharist

9:30 am–10:00 am

Adult Choir

10:00 am–11:30 am

Choral Holy Eucharist

5:00 pm

Holy Eucharist

***Every Wednesday***

7:00 am–7:45 am

Holy Eucharist

& Healing Service