



Dear Beloved of God,

**Consider
Yourself Hugged!**

**Know YOU
Are LOVED!**

Happy Valentine's Day!

We all need a little comfort now and then...A reminder to help us know we are not alone in the world...That someone is in our corner cheering us on NO Matter What. Just as we are Loved No Matter What!

So we are sending you a hug and reminder of our Love and God's Love for you with a little bear! It's enclosed in your packet — we invite you to pick it up anytime it's needed. A visual sign of the connection you have with God and us a community—committed to walking in the way of Love. We hope you join us this Lenten Season as we seek to grow in Love of God, yourself and your neighbor.

Love,
Pastor Robin+
Pastor Robin+
& Your
St. George's
Family

Ash Wednesday—February 17th

Remind Me...Why Do we do this?

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. It may be a day that you faithfully observe every year, or maybe it's a day you're only familiar with because it comes pre-printed in your calendar. Ash Wednesday worship services are often solemn and involve the imposition—or spreading—of ashes on participants' foreheads. Here's a little bit about the meaning of Ash Wednesday and how you might keep a Holy Lent.

What is Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, the 40 days (excluding Sundays) that lead up to Easter. This first day of Lent and the following liturgical season are marked with a somberness as Christians reflect on their mortality, their sinfulness, and the dying of self and letting go that opens way for new life in Christ. While there is no mention of Ash Wednesday in the Bible, the Old Testament records acts of repentance or mourning accompanied by symbolic ash and sackcloth. Recall stories of David, Esther, Job, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Daniel.

Why do we put ashes on our foreheads?

Ashes are a biblical reminder of our mortality: “You are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19). The spreading of ashes on foreheads is a visible reminder of this. The ashes also represent sorrow and repentance for sin. Ash Wednesday reminds us that two things are involved in genuine repentance: “the dying of the old self and the coming to life of the new” The way to Easter is the way of the cross. “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?” (Romans 6:3). New life with Christ involves a daily surrendering of the old life. Ash Wednesday, the first step of this Lenten journey, invites us to acknowledge our mortality and our sinfulness by the imposition of ashes.

How to observe the imposition of the ashes in your worship service

The ashes for the service are prepared by burning the palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday observance. The ashes should be ground to a fine powder and mixed in a shallow bowl with a little water or oil.

As each worshiper comes forward, the ashes are imposed on the forehead in the sign of a cross and the words of Genesis 3:19 are repeated: “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” The imposition of ashes is often preceded by a call to confession and followed by a litany of penitence or a corporate prayer of confession, calling to mind the words of Job: “I repent in dust and ashes.” Whether you join us in person or just take time on this day to reflect on your mortality.

Imposition of ashes can be a deeply moving, though sobering experience. No worshiper should feel required to come forward to receive ashes, nor should the practice be seen as a way of displaying one's piety before others. It is simply a vivid and tangible reminder of our sinfulness, our mortality, and our utter dependence upon the grace of God and the power of Christ's resurrection. Do only if it is meaningful for you.

Practices for **A HOLY LENT** in 2021

Embracing Our Brokenness & Allowing God to Transform Us

A. TAKE ON A HOLY HABIT & WORSHIP (pick one or two)

1. Attend Worship Services online or in person

Monday – Friday Noon Facebook: St Georges Texas City

Sundays 9:30AM Facebook: St Georges Texas City

11AM In Person in the Sanctuary (*Social distancing w/Masks*)

2. Read a Daily Devotional During Lent

Living Well Through Lent 2021: Listening with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength and Mind (*Free at Church or follow link online: (www.livingcompass.org/Lent)*)

Join us for a time of discussion over a bowl of soup AKA our Lenten Series

(*Bring Your Own Bowl – with a chip*) In-person on or Zoom

Thursday's at Noon–1:30 in Quin Hall/Hope Center with social distancing & Masks

3. Read Your Bible Daily

Use reading plan to read the bible in a year

Read 4 Psalms a Day for 40 Days | Read the book of Mark

4. Add Time with God in place of: Excess TV, Alcohol, Worry, etc.

Spend Some of your time doing one of the following:

+ **Connecting to God in Prayer**

+ **Connecting to God by talking with a loved one, give them the gift of listening with care and empathy**

+ Connect with God in Nature—take a walk or drive & give thanks for what you see, hear, and smell.

+ Make something beautiful—enjoy the process & reflect on God co-creating with you. Share it with someone.

+ Journal with words or magazine pictures or stick figure pictures about a time you experienced God's love. Post it as a reminder of God's Love and Beauty.

+ Daily: Remember a time you felt loved or were loving.

B. GIVE TO THOSE IN NEED AS WE GIVE THANKS FOR GOD BLESSING US.

1. “Cans for Change” Clean out your pantry & donate non-perishable items

Benefits: Members in need & Susan's Market Food Bank Clients

Pickups Available: Drop off in Box in Quin Hall at Church or Bring on Sundays anytime during Lent. Let the Calling Tree know, call Sharon, or email us at hope@stgeorgestc.org if you need someone to pick up your items.

2. Collect Your Change to make a Change (*modern mite box in your bag*)

Benefits: Pregnancy Center—helping support pregnant mom's in our community with basics.

Pick up: Bring box to add to the Cross on Easter Sunday. Let us know about pickups.

Jesus Came That We May Be Well/Whole

Lenten Devotional: Living Well Through Lent 2021
Listening with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind

Ways to engage with the Devotional:

- At your own pace
- Noonday Prayer M-F at 12 PM on Facebook: St Georges Texas City
- Thursdays at 12 PM during our Lenten Series in-person or on Zoom
- Living Compass' Lent Facebook Retreat Group—a private group where you will be enriched by your interactions with hundreds of others who are also reading this devotional.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/139913051031997>
- Daily Devotional Emails—Living Compass is offering an opportunity for you to have the reflections from this devotional emailed to you each day during Lent.
<https://www.livingcompass.org/lent>

Half Day Retreat

Online via Zoom or In-Person in Quin Hall

Saturday, March 6, 2021

10-1 PM

Based on the idea we know what we need to find balance and our true North, this retreat will give you space.

We will explore different ways of opening our ears and hearts to hear more clearly from God and one another and even our own hearts and souls.

We will use simple tools to see what area in your life you want to focus on to bring wellness and joy. Using faith as the compass that guides decision in all areas of our lives, we are better able to experience wellness and wholeness. “Health”, “wholeness”, and “holy” all come from the same root word “hal.”



Zoom Meeting ID: 977 818 3721

Zoom Passcode: 715836

The Living Compass

Celebrating Loved Ones Who Died this year & Praying for Their Families

Dale Butler passed away December 9, 2020.
We held his service at St. George's in person
and on zoom on January 16, 2021.

Wayne Moore passed away January 10, 2021.
His private service was held on January 20,
2021 at Emken-Linton.

May Dale Butler and Wayne Moore Rest In Peace and perpetual light with all the saints.
May God comfort Joanne Butler and family and Charlotte Moore, James and Teresa Moore, and
all those who will miss them greatly. In Jesus Name, Amen.

** Planning ahead is one way to love your family. Online services and videos are available during COVID times.
Contact Pastor Robin to learn more.*

GriefShare

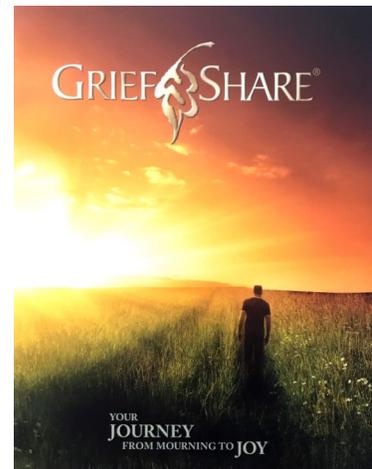
You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences.

Our New 13-Week course began February 9, 2021. We will continue meeting on Tuesdays from 6:30-8 PM in-person or on Zoom. You are welcome to begin attending the GriefShare group at any session. Each is "self-contained," so you do not have to attend in sequence. You will find encouragement and help whenever you begin.



Pictured Above: Offering comfort to those who grieve the loss of a loved one. Currently, we are the only church offering grief support in our area. More and more people are coming out to find comfort. What a blessing to be able to stand with them in their sorrow and let them know they are not alone.

For more info, go to <https://www.griefshare.org/>



1. Is This Normal?
2. Challenges of Grief
3. The Journey of Grief – Part One
4. The Journey of Grief – Part Two
5. Grief and Your Relationships
6. Why?
7. Guilt and Anger
8. Complicating Factors
9. Stuck
10. Lessons of Grief – Part One
11. Lessons of Grief – Part Two
12. Heaven
13. What Do I Live for Now?

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Save the Date!

Shrove Tuesday Service & Online pancake meal

Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2021

Time: 4:30-5:30 PM

Location: Online via Zoom

Zoom Meeting ID: 977 818 3721 | Zoom Passcode: 715836

Description: Gather your pancake making supplies and join us for a brief service and cooking together fun! Pastor Robin and the Fords will be leading. Prizes will be rewarded for the most creative and most beautiful toppings!



Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Time: 12 PM Service & Imposition of Ashes

Location: In Sanctuary w/masks

Description: “You are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19) Join us for our Ash Wednesday service in person.

Time: 4-5 PM Ashes to Go

Location: St. George’s Alley

Description: Come to our drive in station where you stay in your car and wear a mask while you receive ashes.

Lenten Series

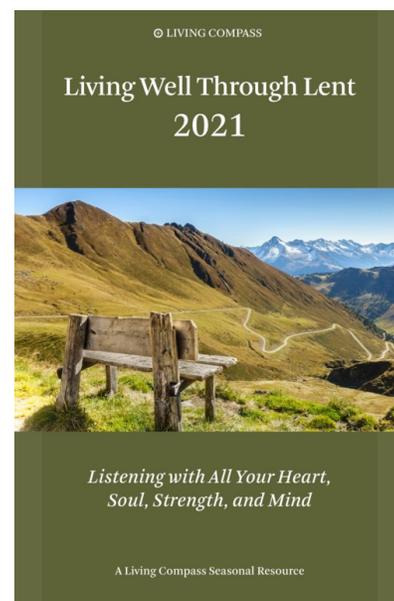
Date: Thursdays during Lent (February 25th-March 25th)

Time: 12-1:30 PM

Location: In-person in Quin Hall w/masks or on Zoom

Description: A time for discussion over a bowl of Soup (Bring your own bowl—with a chip). For all ages.

In your Lenten Care Packet, you will find the Living Well Through Lent 2021: Listening with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength and Mind devotional (pictured to the right). You can use this devotional at your own pace or follow along with us Monday-Friday during Noonday Prayer.



Palm Sunday In-Person Service

Date: Sunday, March 28, 2021

ONLINE

Time: 9:30 AM

Location: Facebook: St Georges Texas City

Description: Online Pre-recorded Service

! IN-PERSON

! Time: 11 AM

! Location: In-person in Sanctuary w/masks

! Description: We will be holding a shorter
! Palm Sunday service; we will still start from
! Quin Hall and process into the church.

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Maundy Thursday

Date: Thursday, April 1, 2021

Time: 6 PM

Location: In-person in Sanctuary w/masks

Description: Taize Service

All dates
are subject
to change
due to
COVID-19
increases.

Good Friday

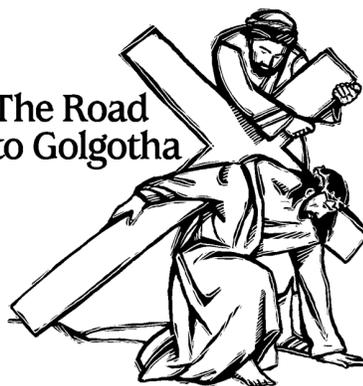
Date: Friday, April 2, 2021

Time: 12 PM

Location: Facebook: St Georges Texas City

Description: Online Pre-recorded Service

The Road
to Golgotha



Easter Sunday In-Person Service

Date: Sunday, April 4, 2021

ONLINE

Time: 9:30 AM

Location: Facebook: St Georges Texas City
and on Zoom

Description: Live Online Service

! IN-PERSON

! Time: 11 AM

! Location: In-person in Sanctuary w/masks

! Description: Join us for our Easter Sunday
! Service!

!

Bring your fresh flowers and your mite box full of change to put in the cross! Instead of our normal Easter Egg Hunt, we will be providing Easter Baskets with eggs for the youth.

Wrapping up 2020

Thank you to all those who helped decorate and get the church ready for our Christmas Eve service.



Last year, we created a virtual socially distanced Christmas pageant and had 10+ members participate!

Starting 2021

On January 17th, we welcomed Melinda “Mindy” Bryant (Doug Mullen’s sister) into the family of faith through Baptism with Olive Krell and Marie Carlson as sponsors.

If you know someone wanting to be Baptized, contact Pastor Robin at 832-922-7022. Next date is Easter Sunday and/or April 10th.



On January 17th, we had our Annual Meeting. We gave thanks for our many blessings in 2020 especially for our leadership team and elected new vestry member Doug Mullen and re-elected Susan Dunn, Rip Howell, and Sharon Willingham (*will stay on for another 1 year term due to COVID-19*).

Early 2021 First Work Day of the Year

While social distancing, we created blankets to comfort those members and friends who are ill. We also tidied up the classrooms, closets, and started painting the other side of the building. We will have more projects that you can help us out with throughout the year, so be on the lookout for the next work day. Thank you to all those who volunteered to help!



Cooking for Christ

Last year, we delivered more than 2,000 meals to St. George's family and friends. We want to continue this ministry and will start back up in May. We will deliver meals on or before Easter and Pentecost. This is one way to keep connected and bring you information and serve our neighbors. If you have a neighbor who would be encouraged by a meal, let us know before Easter. We also are organizing safe service opportunities like the food and change drive.

2021 Directory

We will be updating our directory this year; we will keep the printed directory simple and straight to the point. We plan to begin collecting information in May.

The calling tree will ask for correct spellings of names, addressees, home and cell phone numbers, and emails. Even if you don't want to include all of your information in the directory, we want to have your contact information correct on our membership list.

Visioning Day for 2021

4 Love Teams

Our Love Teams delivered Love Bags for Valentines complete with a bear hug—we really miss hugging you! We hope they bring you joy and remind you that God loves you no matter what and we do too! We will get through this.

Mission, Vision Team

Once again, Sharon and team have organized a retreat for celebrating our many accomplishments in 2020 and for dreaming about what God would have us do in 2021. Members of the congregation were invited to help us hear God's dream for us and notice what the needs are of our members and the wider community. As we look at what gifts we have and invite the Holy Spirit to use us for His glory, we expect to be surprised. We will let you know the results at Easter! Please pray for our teams or join one! Everyone has a job description and clear time commitments.

Invite, Welcome, Connect Team

Our team met to go over the status of the outstanding projects we had discussed previously. Those guests who attended our Christmas Eve Service and signed the registry have been contacted and encouraged to join us again. We continue to stay in contact with our people on our call lists.



We visited via Zoom with Mrs. Reb Scarborough of Calvary Episcopal in Richmond to gain ways to carry out our mission in these challenging times. One suggestion they find works well for them is to greet each visitor with a jar of jam, followed up the next day with a home baked loaf of bread left on doorstep with a note. A phone alert is then given to them to retrieve it from their doorstep. We have given out two so far! See image pictured to the left.

Our next meeting is 2/23 at 10AM. Feel free to join us in-person or via Zoom.

Caring for Each Other Team

Caring For Each Other Team is getting geared up for the new year and wants to know what you need or would like from the community. You can call Marie or someone should have called and introduced themselves. We have paired members with a call committee person to keep you updated on what is going on. We would really like your feedback and input. If you have not received a call yet, please let Marie know by calling 409-948-0265.

We will be calling you to make sure you know what is coming up but you can also get this information from our website: www.stgeorgestc.org/ or in the Sunday e-newsletter or via text. Please let us know what way is best to communicate with you.

Into the World Team

Our team started the new year by giving thanks for all the things we accomplished. Our two main topics of discussion at our first meeting were the youth and Lent. What could we do for the next couple of months? From this initial question, we decided to start back up the youth program for Lent, bring back the mite boxes, and have a non-perishable food drive that would benefit members in need and those who are clients from Susan's Market. So, for our February packet delivery, we included small boxes for everyone to fill up with change. We plan to have everyone bring them back Easter Day to fill up our Easter Cross! You can drop them off early if you can't make it Easter Sunday. You can also inform the Calling Tree or email us as hope@stgeorgestc.org if you need someone to pick up your box.



Modern day Mite Boxes based on widow— she gave the little she had in faith and was praised by Jesus.
Mark 12:41-44

How to sign up for the COVID-19 vaccine waitlist in Galveston County

1 Sign up at utmbhealth.com/vaccine or call 877-389-2318. You'll be asked a few short questions.

2 Every week, as vaccine doses allow, those at greatest risk of hospitalization from COVID-19 will be invited to make an appointment. You'll have 24 hours to make an appointment.

3 Go to your scheduled vaccination location at the appointed day and time. Remember to wear a mask and bring a form of identification.

You do not have to be a resident of Galveston County or a UTMB patient to join the waitlist. Only those in Phase 1A and 1B are asked to sign up at this time.

Phase 1A: Front-line healthcare workers and residents at long-term care facilities

Phase 1B: People 65+ or people 16+ with a [health condition](#) that increases risk of severe COVID-19 illness.

COVID-19 Testing: For more information, visit GCHD.ORG/TESTING

Gather your Pancake Making Supplies & Join Us for a Virtual Shrove Tuesday Service on Zoom



Join Pastor Robin and the Ford Family as they lead our service and pancake making!

**Tuesday, February 16th
4:30-5:30 PM via Zoom**

Prizes will be rewarded for the most creative and most beautiful toppings!

JOIN US for Worship!

Sunday Services

ONLINE 9:30 AM via Facebook: St Georges Texas City and on Zoom

IN-PERSON 11 AM in Sanctuary with masks

Noonday Prayer

ONLINE M-F 12 PM via Facebook: St Georges Texas City

Find us Online!

Facebook Page: St Georges Texas City

Zoom Information: Meeting ID: 977 818 3721 | Passcode: 715836

Website: www.stgeorgestc.org

YouTube Channel: St. George's Texas City