



THE DOVETALE

St. David's Episcopal Church



HOLY WEEK!!!!

Holy Week is almost here! We cannot celebrate it the way we normally do, of course. But that doesn't change the good news of great joy that Christ is risen. Alleluia, alleluia!! (I know it is still technically too early to say that. But we're talking about resurrection. How could I leave it out?)

We will **livestream all our Holy Week services**

(Palm Sunday at 10:00; Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at noon; and Easter Sunday at 10:00) on our Facebook page.



For those who do not have Facebook, we will also post links to Youtube versions of them on our homepage.

Please join us, and invite others to do so as well. You can "share" the experience on Facebook, which really helps to get the word out.

For all services, have a Prayerbook ready if possible. For Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Sunday, also have a little bread and wine for a kind of electronic communion.

Here are a few tips that might help to make Holy Week at home a little more holy.

On **Palm Sunday**, we won't be able to distribute palms. But you can col-

lect some sign of life, hope, growth, or renewal from your home or neighborhood this week: a flower blossom; a small branch from a tree; a leaf or sprig or frond from a houseplant. Raise your symbol of life as I bless the palms during our service as a way of celebrating the triumph of life in Christ and our ever-present hope of his return.

Maundy Thursday: This may sound strange. But in honor of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, consider watching the Maundy Thursday service in bare feet. Or, if you live with someone else, wash each other's hands (or even feet!) after the service.

On **Good Friday** you can walk the Stations of the Cross at your home. I will e-mail a version of the full service, produced by Saint Andrew's, with stations included. You could also do it outside, or even in our labyrinth. Just pause every few steps for the next station. Alternatively, watch the shorter version of the Stations that a few of us walked last Sunday. It is available on our Facebook page and our homepage.

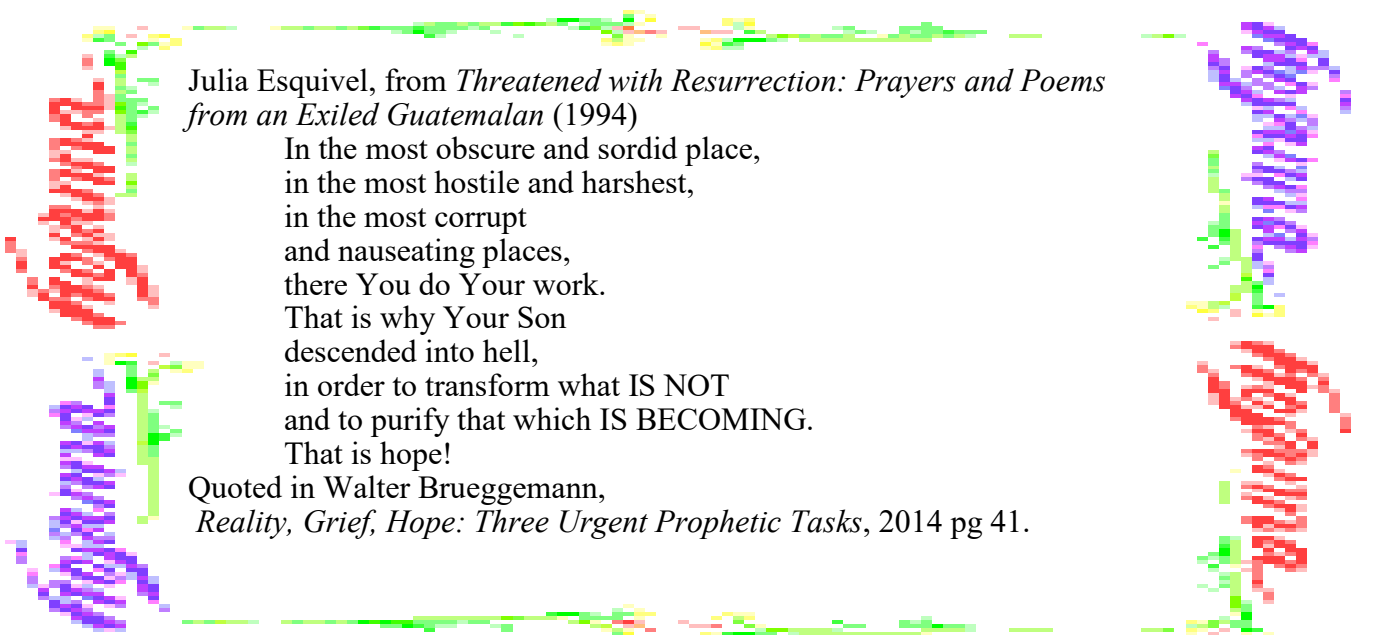
I haven't seen a clever idea for adding a bit of holy spice to Easter. But enjoy whatever you gave up for Lent with a clean conscience. And shout out alleluia every once in a while!

God's peace and all good to you all as we approach the holiest week of them all!

Fr. Harvey +

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Julia Esquivel, from *Threatened with Resurrection: Prayers and Poems from an Exiled Guatemalan* (1994)

In the most obscure and sordid place,
in the most hostile and harshest,
in the most corrupt
and nauseating places,
there You do Your work.
That is why Your Son
descended into hell,
in order to transform what IS NOT
and to purify that which IS BECOMING.
That is hope!

Quoted in Walter Brueggemann,
Reality, Grief, Hope: Three Urgent Prophetic Tasks, 2014 pg 41.

Church is Closed

At the Bishop's direction, we are closed at least through May 4. That means nothing scheduled at Church will happen in the building. Although I have not received official word, I presume that the Holy Week services sponsored by the Agawam Clergy Association are also cancelled. I believe the Bishop's direction is wise. But it is also painful, as he also acknowledges. We will reopen as soon as it is safe to do so.

Saint David's Online

In an effort to support our common life, we are using technology more aggressively than ever. Each morning (Monday through Saturday), Fr. Harvey livestreams Morning Prayer through our Facebook page. Each evening, Bishop Fisher leads a service of Compline on Zoom. On Sundays we are livestreaming a service of Holy Communion. Our Bible Studies continue to meet, just now on Zoom. And so on. If you are having trouble getting connected to participate in any of this, please contact Father Harvey. Hopefully he can help to get you started. If so, we know that God's grace must truly be at work!

Our New Facebook Page, by Fr. Harvey

One result of being closed for a few weeks has been our effort to up our technology game. We are now livestreaming the 10:00 service on Facebook, without people during our closure, but we will continue after we reopen. During our closure, I have also been livestreaming services of Morning Prayer at 8:00 every day but Sundays. That may or may not continue, depending on interest. Going forward, we hope to keep our Facebook page updated. Please "like" us at <https://www.facebook.com/StDavidsFeedingHillsMA/>. You can also "follow" our page, which lets you know when things are posted and also "share" your favorite posts. All of that helps spread the word!

Virtual Pastoral Care

Now more than ever it is important that we be sensitive to each other's needs. Isolation can be as harmful as the covid-19 virus! Please stay in touch with your brothers and sisters at Saint David's. Reach out by phone or e-mail or in whatever other way seems appropriate. And if you are struggling, emotionally, financially, or logistically, please let Fr. Harvey know. He should be able to connect you with parishioners who are ready to help.

Lent Madness

We are coming to the end, but it's not too late to help choose the winner! Based loosely on the NCAA basketball tournament, this online devotion pits saints against one another in a bracket as voters choose their favorites throughout the penitential season of Lent. Here's how to participate: on the weekdays of Lent, information is posted at www.lentmadness.org about two different saints. Each pairing remains open for 24 hours as participants read about and then vote to determine which saint moves on to the next round. We are currently in the semi-final round. My money is on Harriet Tubman, but she has some stiff competition including Joseph, the father in the holy family.

The Triduum, by Fr. Harvey

Holy Week was the nucleus of the entire Christian year. First there was Easter. Then Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, which along with Easter constitute the "Triduum." (I think it means "three days.") Then the rest of Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday. Next came Lent as a season of preparation for Holy Week. Finally the rest of the Christian year was filled in. The entire Christian year matters. But the Triduum was the start of it all.

This year, we will all be celebrating Holy Week at home. Try to take a little extra time for prayer that week. Reflect on your life with God, where you stand now and where you would like to be. Ask God's help in taking another step forward on your Christian journey.

Some of that work is best done with each other. There are limits to what we can do. But we will livestream services on each of the big three days. Those three services encapsulate in miniature the entire gospel story. We hear the story of the first time Christians gathered around the table to celebrate the Eucharist. We hear again the awful events of Christ's death. Finally, we hear the good news of great joy that Christ has risen, that Christ is alive, that Christ has defeated sin and death, and opened the way for us to experience eternal life.

Whether or not you watch our livestreamed services—and I certainly hope many of you will—I encourage you to make a particular effort to acknowledge Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. We can all use a little good news these days, and this is the best news of all!!

Easter Flowers

After some soul searching, we decided not to cancel our Easter Flowers order. On Easter morning, we will livestream a service with the flowers as the only appropriate backdrop. Afterwards, we'll do our best to (safely!) deliver the flowers to the people who ordered them, if requested, or to other parishioners.

Be Alert for Scams

I am told that predators are trying to take advantage of the pandemic to scam people. If you receive an e-mail message asking for money or personal information, check the source before doing anything. Most likely it is not legitimate. A few months ago, some of you received messages claiming to be from me asking that you send money to me. For the record, I will never make a request like that. It is a shame that some are taking advantage of a tragic situation in this way. Their bad actions force all of us to be extra careful.

Distributing Palms

Unfortunately we cannot be together on Palm Sunday, and we have been advised not even to do a kind of Palms to go. But we don't want them to go to waste. The priest at another Church suggested that we donate the palms to a nursing home. Deacon Terry's sister manages three, and she was thrilled with the idea. We will therefore bless the palms as usual, hold a few for people who especially want them, and give the rest to people who are at great risk and experiencing great isolation. Thanks to Terry for making this happen. It is a comfort to know that the palms will be a blessing to people who need a little good news!

Online Directory

Thanks to the hard work of Laurie Littlefield, we now have a password-protected online directory on our webpage! We have done our best to make sure the listings are correct, and to omit those who prefer to remain unlisted. We'll announce the password in Church. You can also get it anytime by contacting the office or Father Harvey. Please take a moment to check your listing (or to make sure you are unlisted). Thanks to Laurie for making this happen!

(First) Communion Class

We were planning to offer a pair of (first) Communion classes aimed specially at first and second graders at the end of Lent. On the Sunday after Easter, we intended to make much of those who went through the classes, including inviting them to stand around the altar during Holy Eucharist. Unfortunately, like so many things, those classes have been cancelled. As soon as the lock-down has ended, we will schedule new classes and move forward with this joyful series.

Agawam Easter project

With great regret, we had to cancel the Easter project this year. People were justifiably concerned about shopping, and the town offices through which we distribute the baskets were closed. By the time we made the decision, we already had a few baskets. If you can find another use for a basket you donated, please let Fr. Harvey know, and you can pick it up anytime. We'll figure out what to do with any remaining baskets, including baskets that people have already purchased even if they haven't yet dropped them off. Thanks to everyone who did or planned to participate. Special thanks to the Zerns for organizing this wonderful outreach once again.

Church Without Walls by Father Harvey

We had fifteen at our Church without walls service in March. Deacon Terry preached on the Gospel reading about being born again, and we had a brief but interesting conversation about salvation. At Communion, thanks to quick action by Jude and John O'Hare, we were able to use grape juice; last month it was cola! Afterwards we were able to give two meals to everyone who wanted them, and still have a few leftover for the Cupboard. We also delivered several hand-knitted scarves made by Linda Birk, and a check for nearly \$200, the product of the free will offering on Shrove Tuesday and the loose plate offering on Ash Wednesday.

At Martha's request, we have discontinued Church without Walls until we can safely gather once again. That means no meeting in April. We'll see about May as we get closer to the date. In the meantime, the Parish Cupboard is still providing groceries to needy people, and still accepting donations. Their work is more important now than ever. Please support them as you can.

Building Bridges Veterans Ministry

Our March Veterans Lunch was another great success! Thanks to John O'Hare and the Lions for preparing a great meal, and to the host of volunteers who made the whole event run smoothly. We served over 60 veterans and something like 80 people total. Once again the Mayor joined us, and this time a representative from the Governor's office did as well. We gave away more winter coats and a representative from the Springfield Rescue Mission announced some of the services they provide.

Unfortunately, our April lunch is cancelled, and probably the May meal will be as well. But in the unlikely event that everything returns to normal in time, our May Veterans' Lunch will be Tuesday the 5th at 11:30.

Visioning Potluck

We hoped to schedule another Visioning Potluck in April. Sigh. For now, the date must remain tentative. Whenever we gather, we will talk in a more concrete way about who we are, who we want to be, and what we need to do to get there. In the meantime, a typed copy of every written comment from our first potluck, along with a summary of some of the things that were said, is available on our webpage, and the box for your ideas is still in the narthex.

Mexican Train Night

Last Fall we started a new tradition of Dominoes on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:00. It won't happen in April. But maybe May..... If so, it will be the 26th. Whenever we next gather, please join us for some fun and fellowship. All are welcome!

The Auction

Our auction was originally scheduled for Saturday, March 21. That being the middle of the lockdown, we decided to postpone the auction until next September. We'll provide full information as plans take shape and as we get closer to the day. In the meantime, thanks to everyone who donated auction items. Special thanks to Scott Seabury and his team for their leadership and hard work so far. We'll get it done!!

Expanding Our Gardens

Last year, we had a small vegetable garden in the lawn at the far side of the parking lot. We hope to expand the garden this summer. If so we will offer the produce to any takers (not just Saint David's people) on Sundays after Church. People would take what they want and pay what they can. We can donate any left-overs to the Parish Cupboard.

We already have a core of volunteers, and we have invited members of the Lighthouse and the Feeding Hills Methodist Church to join us in this effort. But questions remain. Most immediately, we have to decide how big we want to make the garden. The answer depends entirely on the final number and commitment of volunteers. Our primary concern is not overburdening people who already do a LOT on our grounds! Complicating matters, the Diocese has understandably decided not to award Ministry Development Grants this year. We had applied for one to cover the costs of our garden expansion.

If you would like to be part of the conversation about what to do going forward, please let Father Harvey know. We welcome any and all!

Replacing the Church Carpet

The vestry decided at our last (zoom) meeting to get current estimates for the two leading options. We plan to have carpet up the central aisle of the Church and also in the altar area. We may simply carpet the entire nave, or we may put flooring under the chairs. With the cost estimates for both options in hand, we hoped to make a final decision at our April meeting. But a lot has changed since then! We can't make a final commitment to starting work until the Church has reopened and we have a clearer picture of where we stand financially. Stay tuned....

Prison Ministry

This ministry continues slowly to evolve. We have now shifted from Tuesday evenings to Sunday afternoons at either 2:00 or 4:00. Our hope was to begin on Sunday, April 26. Our first session would be the second Sunday of May, which is the 10th. By then, hopefully the pandemic will have eased, the time will be settled and we will know if there is interest. We'll keep everyone posted.....

Healing Eucharist Fridays at 12

When Church reopens, we will continue to offer our healing service every Friday at 12:00. But like so much else, it is on hold for now.

Senior Farm Shares for Lent, by Father Harvey

Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) has supported local farms for many years, in part by encouraging consumers to buy food directly from farmers through programs like farm shares. People with farm shares pay a certain amount of money to a farmer up front, and then receive vegetables or other farm products every week or so for a season. Last year CISA began subsidizing farm shares for needy seniors, and they are asking Churches for help. One share costs \$125.

Every year for Lent I give up some foods. For the last few years, I have also aimed for a "complaint-free" Lent. I plan to donate the money I save on food, and the money I pay when I complain, to the senior farm share program. If others do the same and we pool our donation, I am sure we can support at least one farm share. You can also donate directly to CISA, of course. But if you would like to be part of a Saint David's contribution, please let Jim Shields know. Thanks!

Food for the Poor Project: Jim Shields

Food For the Poor is asking for donations for a special project to build homes for the poor and destitute in Latin America and Haiti. They are promising **matching funds** for all donations made. It costs \$3800 to build a house, so if we donated \$1900 that would be enough to build a home, with the \$1900 matching funds added in. Our goal was to raise 40% of the cost of a home (\$ 760 not counting matching funds), and we made it! I will let you all know what our final donation was. thank you.

Creative Care by Pauline Mortenson

Earth Day was conceived on April 22, 1970 and this year is its 50th anniversary. One in ten Americans on that April 22nd day walked the woods, streets and seashores to call an end to the pollution. How far have we come: One million rooftop solar systems now in California.

The smoke from Australia's bushfires have reached Argentina about 6000 miles away. A billion animals perished.

Goldman Sachs will not finance oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Sweden shut down one of four nuclear reactors after operating for 44 years.

A plan to make public transit free approved in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Netherlands' government greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced by at least 25 percent by the end of 2020 according to their high court.

Switzerland is beginning its exit from nuclear power.

But...Greenland's ice sheet is melting seven times faster than in the 1990's.

The Creative Care Team plans to do a study of the shrubs, trees and grasses on our land behind the Church. We hope to identify how they help insects, birds and wildlife. Also, this will show us what we might consider planting to help our animals/insects around us. We'll let you know when we'll be starting this project.

EXCITING NEWS: WELCOME TO SUE O'HARE!!!

The Creation Care Team would like you to join us in welcoming our newest team member...Sue O'Hare. We are thrilled and incredibly fortunate to have Sue join us and bring her knowledge and dedication to St. David's to our Team. We also welcome any of you to join us. Just contact Jim Shields, Mary Moore, Sue O'Hare or myself if interested.

KIDS CORNER QUESTION: (For kids only! Please encourage our children to try this.)

What is the state marine mammal of Massachusetts?

- A. Bottle-nosed Dolphin
- B. Harbor Seal
- C. Ocoa
- D. Right Whale

Please email your answer to jamesshields861@gmail.com. Give the correct answer and win bragging rights and your name will be published in the next month's Dovetail. Good luck!!!

The answer to last month was "A. Black Capped Chickadee."

Community Solar

We have entered into a contract with a company called Nexamp to save some money and do something good for the environment at the same time. We will continue to receive power bills from Eversource. But, and here is where it gets a little complicated, Eversource will also credit us the full amount of the bill, and then charge Nexamp for the power we have used. Nexamp pays Eversource, and then bills us for the same electricity. Since the electricity is generated by solar panels, and so earns tax credits, they can offer us a 15% discount on the power we have used.

At the moment, no panels are available in our area, so we are on a waiting list. They anticipate that we should be up and running by about June. I believe the same deal is available for private homes. If you decide to pursue it, please tell them you heard about the deal from us—that gives us a little bonus.

Discretionary Fund by Fr. Harvey Hill

This is just a reminder that I have a small discretionary fund which is intended to give people a little financial boost when necessary. If you get in a bind, please talk to me. I should add that our conversation and any help from my discretionary fund will be fully confidential.

Contemplative Prayer and Lectio Divina

“Lectio Divina” is a prayerful reading of a Bible passage, interspersed with short periods of silence. The basic question we ask ourselves is, what is God saying to me through this passage? We can’t gather in person in April, but we are considering an online version. We could do it anytime, of course. But for tradition’s sake, we will probably aim for our normal fourth Sunday of the month. In April, that will be the 26th. Please let Father Harvey know if you are interested in participating.

Good Friday Donation to the Holy Land

Every year the Presiding Bishop encourages all Churches to make a special collection on Good Friday to support the work of the Episcopal Church in the Holy Land. We won’t be together on Good Friday, of course. But if you would like to make a donation, please mail a check to Saint David’s, with “Holy Land” written in the subject line. We’ll send whatever we receive on to the appropriate office.

Donations during the Pandemic

Everyone and every institution is struggling financially right now. We are in a better position than most Churches. We don’t rely heavily on the stock market for our income, and our expenses are low. But we do need help. The Diocese is doing what they can, for example, by forgiving all monthly assessments (the money parishes send to them) in April and May. We are also reducing our expenses where we can. But bills keep coming. If you are in a position to make your pledge payments or other contributions, please do so. You can mail checks to the Church, donate through our webpage, or contribute online through the tithely program. Thanks!!

DOVETALE Deadline by Esther Nunn

The deadline for the May 2020 Dovetale is April 20, 2020.
Please submit your articles early to estar00@winning.com. Thanks

Children's Ministry

Sadly, we will not be able to hold our normal Good Friday children's event at Church. But all is not lost. We are in conversation about doing the Easter story on the day in real time through ZOOM. And we still plan to have an Easter Egg Hunt whenever we can safely meet. I have it on good authority that the Noyes family has already stuffed a few hundred eggs, with lots more to be done!

Looking ahead, we won't be able to have the Mother's Day Brunch as originally scheduled on May 3. Depending on how things look in May, we may try to reschedule it. Looking farther ahead, we certainly hope to be able to have our Fathers' Day Ice Cream on June 21. If not, we'll all be stir crazy!!

In the meantime, we have begun conversations about ways to continue to offer some form of Christian education for our children. A few people have agreed to help coordinate our offerings, and a few families have expressed interest in participating. Hopefully we can have something in place by Easter. If you are interested in helping in any way, please let Father Harvey know. Thanks!!

Boissonneault Memorial Scholarship

Applications are now available for the Boissonneault Memorial Scholarship, in honor of Albert Boissonneault and Ellie Van Valkenburgh. Contact Fr. Harvey if you would like one. To be eligible, the applicant must be a graduating senior from high school, accepted at a four-year college, and a confirmed member of Saint David's for at least five years. Completed applications should be submitted to the parish office by May 15. The Boissonneault family will communicate the final decision to the applicant sometime after June 1

Living Wills, Health Care Proxies, and More, by Fr. Harvey

You can find in the narthex blank forms for Health Care Proxies, the MOLST form, funeral planning, and an emergency contact list. Feel free to request one from the office. If you do complete one or more of the forms, please make sure the relevant people in your life have copies. Saint David's will keep copies of any of those completed forms for parishioners who so desire. I am happy to chat with you about any of these forms if that would be helpful. Preparing for the worst can be a little unnerving, but it is a huge help to your family and friends, and it can also help the Church offer more effective support as needed.

Prayer Cycles

We use two monthly prayer cycles, both of which are available in the narthex. One lists all the nations of the world. It typically doesn't change much from year to year. The other lists the people and the ministries of Saint David's. We updated it for 2020. But if you notice any missing people or ministries, please let the office know. It's easy to correct, and we don't want to leave anyone out! And please give the prayer cycles a try if you are not already doing so. It takes just a few minutes each day, and over the course of a month, you pray by name for every nation in the world, and every member and ministry here at Saint David's. We all need prayers more than ever right now!

Prayer Requests

Fr. Harvey plans to begin including prayer requests in his weekly e-mail messages. If you would like to make a prayer request, please let him know. If you are making the request for someone other than yourself, please first make sure the person would like to be included. Thanks!

Reading the New Testament

We are again working our way through the New Testament, with monthly conversations about what we are reading. In April we will be reading the Gospel of John, which is an excellent way to celebrate the Easter season. Our April conversation will be Tuesday, April 21, at 4:00, again on Zoom. The reading is quite manageable—we read just one chapter each weekday. And spending time with Scripture is one of the best ways to deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ. That's what it is all about!



APRIL 2020



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Church closed All month	Morning Prayer Livestream @ 8am Mon–Sat	Compline with the Bishop every evening at 8:00 on Zoom	1	2	3 Bible Study 1:00 Zoom	4
5 Palm Sunday RITE II 10AM Livestream	6 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM Zoom	7 Zoom Coffee Hour 12:00	8	9 Maunday Thursday service at 12:00—livestream	10 Good Friday service at 12:00—livestream Children's program at 11 Zoom	11
12 Easter RITE II 10AM Livestream	13 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM Zoom	14 Zoom Coffee Hour 12:00	15	16	17 Bible Study 1:00 Zoom	18
19 RITE II 10AM Livestream	20 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM Zoom	21 Zoom Coffee Hour 12:00 Vestry 7PM	22	23	24 Bible Study 1:00 Zoom	25
26 RITE II 10AM Livestream Lectio 11:30 Zoom	27 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM Zoom	28 Zoom Coffee Hour 12:00 NT Conver Zoom 4PM	29	30		



There comes a time
When we heed a certain call
When the world must come together as one
There are people dying
Oh, and it's time to lend a hand to life
The greatest gift of all

We are the world
We are the children
We are the ones who make a brighter day, so let's start giving

"We Are the World"
written by Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie

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Mission Statement

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to love God and community, committing ourselves to lives of joyful worship, prayer, and the teaching of scripture.