

Easter: Out of Darkness, Light!

by Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald

The Bible is profound, not only in what it says, but in what it does not say. A case in point is the resurrection of Jesus. The Bible does not tell us how, or when, or what exactly happened. If we want to know “just the facts,” it does not answer that question. As if to say, “Those are the wrong questions.”

What the Bible tells us is about the experience of the faithful. Somehow they experienced the resurrected Jesus. From what the Bible says, there were a variety of these experiences. One in the garden. Two walking on the road. And yet another story by the lakeside. And there are others—stories told by disciples sharing their experience of the living Lord.

It was the most profound experience of their lives. A transcendent experience that transformed the disciples. In the experi-

ence of the resurrection, God transforms death into life, doubters into believers, tears of mourning into tears of joy, failure into future, defeat into eternal victory. As the Bible puts it, “Out of darkness, light.”

For us, the experience of the resurrection of Christ means that no matter how overwhelming the problem is, there is an even greater source of hope. And this source of hope is reaching out to connect with us.

We celebrate Easter to help us to open up our hearts, minds, and lives to the experience of the living Lord. It is not something we achieve. It is a gift made possible through the Holy Spirit. As we move through the last days of Lent, may our lives be ready to experience anew the gift God gives us in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Out of darkness, light!

HOLY WEEK 2019

Palm Sunday | April 14

10 a.m. Worship

Maundy Thursday | April 18

12 noon Worship and Holy Communion

7 p.m. Holy Communion and the Office of Tenebrae featuring Willan's *Tenebrae Responses*.

The Motet Choir, Matthew Culloton, conductor

Good Friday | April 19

12 noon Worship

7 p.m. Vespers: Maurice Duruflé's *Requiem*

The Motet Choir and Bach Chamber Orchestra

Krista Costin, alto; Aaron David Miller, organ

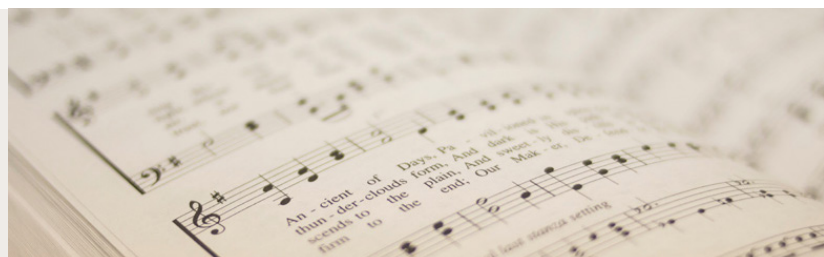
Matthew Culloton, conductor

Easter Sunday | April 21

7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service, with breakfast following

9 and 11 a.m. Festive Worship with organs, brass

The Motet Choir and the Choir School



Capturing the Spirit Through Music

There is a rich tapestry of music for the solemn time of Holy Week and the festive nature of Easter. With The Motet Choir programming for Palm Sunday, I try to capture the spirit of both the pomp and circumstance (Weelkes: *Hosanna to the Son of David*) as well as the Passion story (Handel: *Surely He Hath Borne Our Griefs*). When we convene on the evening of Maundy Thursday, we annually present Healey Willan's tenderly striking *Tenebrae Responses* in tandem with read scripture. This year's Good Friday Vespers service features the choir, organ, and orchestra on Maurice Duruflé's *Requiem*, a poignant work rooted in the composer's love of Gregorian chant and its re-imagining through Romantic French harmonies. On Easter morning, the choirs and brass present festive works (Byrd: *Haec dies*) that celebrate the resurrection and remind us that “This is the day the Lord has made.” Surely, we will rejoice in it! —Matthew Culloton, Choirmaster

Transition Update



House of Hope is moving forward.

I want to thank everyone who participated in our in-home focus

groups. It was great to hear your insights about this church. And I want to thank the 30 people who were part of the visioning meetings. They did an outstanding job. All of that information was put into a report that provided the Twin Cities Presbytery with the mission study that they ask for before a pastoral search begins.

The great news is: We are ready for the next step. The Session voted to form a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). This will be made up of nine members of

the congregation. When these members have been identified, a congregational meeting will be called to vote on the PNC. The PNC will then begin the process of searching for House of Hope's next Head of Staff Pastor. How long will this take? That depends on the work of the PNC and the Holy Spirit. Usually it takes around a year, but it can happen sooner or later. The goal is to find the "right fit" between the church and your next Head of Staff Pastor.

This is an exciting time. I hope you keep the church, the PNC, and your new pastor in your prayers. House of Hope is an amazing church. God is calling you to a wonderful future.

Yours in a faithful journey,
Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald



Congregational Nominating Committee Seeking Recommendations for the PNC

The Nominating Committee of the Session is charged with drawing up a slate of candidates to serve on House of Hope's Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). The PNC will be charged with the work of finding the next installed Head of Staff Pastor. Please help the committee by recommending members of the congregation to serve in this capacity. Each interested candidate is required to attend one of the following three information sessions:

Wednesday, April 3 at 6 p.m. | Library
Tuesday, April 9 at 1 p.m. | Library
Saturday, April 13 at 10 a.m. | Room 1

Following these meetings, the HOH Nominating Committee will choose nine candidates who will then come before the congregation to be elected at a specially called congregational meeting. (If you are strongly interested in being considered to serve, yet cannot make

one of these three meetings due to special circumstances, please contact Judy Gensmer for discussion.)

You may use the nomination form, found in the bulletin, welcome center kiosks, church office, on the House of Hope website (www.hohchurch.org/about-us/governing-bodies/) or speak with a committee member to suggest a name to be considered to serve on the PNC.

Please leave completed forms in the church office; email the information to the committee chair Judy Gensmer at cgensmer@comcast.net; or mail them to the committee in care of the church office:

The House of Hope Presbyterian Church
Attn: Nominating Committee for the PNC
797 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105-3392

WORSHIP

Sunday, April 7
Fifth Sunday in Lent
10 a.m.

The Motet Choir:
Misericordias, Mozart

Sunday, April 14
Palm Sunday
10 a.m.

The Motet Choir:
Hosanna to the Son of David, Weelkes
Surely He hath Borne Our Grievs, Handel

Thursday, April 18
Maundy Thursday
Noon and 7 p.m.
Holy Communion

The Motet Choir:
Tenebrae Responses, Willan

Friday, April 19
Good Friday
Noon and 7 p.m.

**The Motet Choir and
Bach Chamber Orchestra:**
Requiem, Duruflé

Sunday, April 21
Easter Sunday
7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service
9 and 11 a.m. Festive Worship

Motet Choir:
Haec Dies, Byrd
This is the Day, Anonymous

Choir School:
Sound the Trumpet, Purcell

Sunday, April 28
Second Sunday of Easter
10 a.m.

Adult Handbell Choir:
with Ian Boylan, clarinet

Visit hohchurch.org for livestreaming of Sunday worship services.



March 2019 Session Minutes

Transitional Pastor Report

Transitional Pastor Andrew McDonald has completed a second course of Transitional Pastor training. On March 14, the Called Positions Committee of the Presbytery will determine if HOH has sufficient information from our Visioning Committee and house meetings to begin searching for a new Head of Staff Pastor and forming a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). Rev. McDonald distributed a packet with outlines and commentary from the Visioning Committee, Visioning Sub-Committees and house meetings.

Kitchen Workgroup Report

Elder Jenny Stevens reported that the Kitchen Committee is discussing how HVAC system renovations may correspond with other potential renovations. Rough estimates for building project scenarios were distributed.

Stewardship Committee Report

Committee Chair Sherwood Pomeroy distributed a February Stewardship report. He highlighted a group of members who pledged last year and have not done so this year. He also reported that the committee would like to organize a task force to explore the feasibility of a capital campaign.

Mission Outreach

Elder Bill Geery reported that this year's Per Capita has been paid to the Presbytery.

Children and Family Ministry

Elder Geoff Stevens encouraged all to participate in the Mardi Gras Chili Cook-off fundraiser. HOH Community Retreat will take place at Clearwater Forest in June.

Personnel Committee

Clerk John Tulloch reported that an offer letter was accepted by Michelle Freyholtz for the position of Acting Director of Administration.

Peace and Justice

Elder Mike Nord reported the committee will focus on two initiatives: Housing

Equity and Environmental Stewardship. Sunday Series speaker Joel Sartore will kick off March's focus on environmental stewardship. This will be complemented by Adult Enrichment sessions. April will focus on housing equity.

Nominating

Elder Judy Gensmer reported that officers for Session, Deacons, Trustees, and members of the 2019 Nominating Committee were approved at the Annual Meeting.

Budget

The Budget report was distributed. Michelle Freyholtz answered questions and budget was approved.

Presbytery

The March meeting was March 16, 2019 at Korean Presbyterian Church of MN. The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 3 p.m. (Wilf Family Center at the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital, Auditorium).

Associate Minister Reports

Rev. Julia Carlson requested continuing prayers for healing for her mother. Rev. Zach Wilson reported that he will be sending emails to ask members to register for life groups during Lent.

HOH Community Retreat June 7-9

Join House of Hope for a multigenerational community retreat at Clearwater Forest. Enjoy a waterfront view, communal meals, art, devotional times, and worship. From ropes courses and water activities to prayer labyrinths and relaxing by the bonfire, this retreat has something for all ages. We even have an infant and toddler play space. Register to join us in one of the two beautiful lodges and help us celebrate summertime together. Cost is \$85 per participant, which includes meals and lodging. Scholarships available. For more information, contact Kiera Stegall at KieraS@hohchurch.org.



Stewardship of the Earth

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.

— Psalm 24:1

Observe Earth Day on Monday, April 22, 2019

The first Earth Day in 1970 launched the birth of the modern environmental movement. After witnessing the devastating destruction caused by the 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, Gaylord Nelson, a United States Senator from Wisconsin at the time, founded it as a "national teach-in on the environment." He set the date between Spring Break and final exams to harness the energy of students who inspired him with their activism. Today, more than a billion people—including people of faith across the globe, celebrate it every year.

The Environmental Stewardship Committee invites you do something on April 22 that symbolizes your willingness to make personal changes and work for systemic ones to help halt climate change. For example, on that day you might:

- Eat lower on the food chain—vegetarian or plant-based meals
- Be mindful of the impact of your vehicle—walk or bike anywhere within six blocks
- Take a walk in a park to appreciate Earth's natural beauty

For more ideas, please visit: earthday.org/take-action/

Let us know! If you support this effort, when you sign the Friendship pad during Sunday worship, next to your name put an





Adult Education

Great Decisions

April 9 | 4 p.m. | Kirk Parlour
The State Department and the State of Diplomacy with Mark Canning

During the Trump administration, the usual ways of conducting diplomacy have been upended. Many positions in the State Department have never been filled. Meetings with foreign leaders, such as Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong-un, have been undertaken with little advance planning. What effects are these changes having and how will they affect ongoing relationships between the United States and its allies and its adversaries?

For most of the past 41 years, Mark Canning was a diplomat in the State Department. He has lived in Poland, South Africa, Zambia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Korea, and China. He has lectured on North Korea and mentored at the Army War College (based in North Korea). Since retiring in 2018, he teaches Chinese at Concordia College.

Joy Davis' Second Thursday Literature Seminar

April 11 | 10 a.m. | Library

We will look through the eyes of poets Emily Dickinson and laureate Kay Ryan at creatures often forgotten: turtle, bat, and caterpillar. Texts are provided. All are welcome.

Sunday Exchange

April 28 | 11:15 a.m. | Room 1

Your values? Or American values? We're practicing new ways of being together, the last Sunday of every month at the Sunday Exchange. We pose a question. We talk about what matters. This month the question is, *"Do your values actually differ from American values?"* If you have children, they can remain in childcare.



House of Hope Women's Retreat

Prayer: Our Daily Bread, An Untold Mystery

Friday, April 26–Sunday, April 28

St. John's Abbey Guesthouse, Collegeville

Rev. Julia Carlson, Facilitator

All women are invited for a weekend away from daily routine to deepen your relationship with God. We will share thoughts and readings, and experience chant, centering prayer, the practice of silence, and the Jesus prayer. There will also be time to reflect on your own, explore the beautiful campus and grounds of Saint John's Abbey and University, tour the Saint John's Bible

Gallery, and join the monastic community in worship and prayer.

Cost of \$170 single occupancy or \$140 double occupancy includes lodging, meals, and retreat materials. It is due at the time of registration. SPACE IS LIMITED—check our table outside the Kirk Parlour on Sunday, April 7 for availability.



WANTED: Garden volunteers to supply local food shelves with the freshest organic vegetables. All ages, abilities, experience levels, and schedules are welcome—there are jobs to fit everyone in the House of Hope Food Shelf Garden. Sit in the sun and pick a few tomatoes or cancel your gym membership and get your workout in the garden. Work with others or work on your own. Drive the veggies to the food shelf. Volunteer once or all season long. All efforts contribute to grow 1,500-2,000 lbs. of food each year for our neighbors. To get on our volunteer email list, please email: houseofhopegarden@gmail.com or see Elizabeth Karre.

Stewardship 2019



First and foremost: thank all of you for your generous pledges and gifts.

I'm pleased to report that we are ahead of last

year. We have received pledges from 349 households including 34 new pledges for a total of \$1,161,674. The average pledge is \$3,329 and the mean pledge is \$2,000. \$1,161,674 is great, but it is 92% of the goal—we are still \$108,000 short.

We can make up the difference. You should have recently received a letter regarding Per Capita, the cost of being a Presbyterian and support for its mission. We can eliminate this shortfall by donating Per Capita costs, as well as through the generosity of those who have not yet pledged this year, and through a little extra giving by each of us. We all need to show our love for this church and all its blessings. **An additional \$6 per week from every giving household would raise \$109,000.**

The Budget Committee noted the shortfall in pledges, as well as the extraordinary expenses due to weather. Above-budget items include heat, snow removal, ice dam removal, and extra salt for the walkways. Water damage from the ice dams was beginning to show and

the unexpected ice dam removal cost for the church and the Manse amounted to \$22,000. It took crews more than 52 hours at a rate of \$400 per hour.

So what can we do?

1. Send in checks to cover Per Capita cost for each member.
2. Give cash or check via the contribution envelopes in the pews.
3. Use your phone to text a gift. Text HOH to 73256.
4. Pledge by pledge card or calling the church office and talking to Michelle.
5. Increase your pledge by calling Michelle or via My HOH.
6. Consider direct giving from your IRA.
7. Make giving easier and automatic by setting up automatic payments via My HOH.

I know it sounds like its all about money and it is. To carry out our mission, our vision for the future, to maintain and update this beautiful, old building, to secure the best in new leadership requires a strong financial commitment. We all need to show crazy love for this place.
—Sherwood Pomeroy, Committee Chair

"All efforts in stewardship are to encourage the gift of generosity."



Save the Date

Volunteer Opportunity | H4H Faith Builders April Build | April 13

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity will host our House of Hope group for a Saturday project in St. Paul. It will be an indoor project.



"I give electronically."

We recognize that electronic giving is a growing trend—in our church and beyond.

As passing the plate is an important tradition in our congregation, we have included a new card in the pew racks.

Please place this card in the plate as you pass it if you donate electronically.

Thank you for your support.



Yes, I support House of Hope.

This card can be placed in the offering plate as a tangible symbol of your stewardship contribution; which you have conveyed through:

- Online or direct bank account transfer
- Monthly/quarterly by check or another form of payment
- Text HOH to 73256

To view your year-to-date giving or to make an online donation, visit My HOH at hohchurch.org.

Thank you for your faithful support of the ministries and mission of The House of Hope Presbyterian Church.



Children, Youth, and Family Programming

Bowling Tweens Event Friday, April 12, 6–8 p.m.

Fourth through sixth graders are invited to a night of bowling and pizza at Memory Lanes in Minneapolis. Cost is \$15 per person, which includes 2-hours of bowling, shoe rental, and dinner. Adult chaperones are needed. Families are responsible for their own transportation or coordinating carpools. RSVP to Kiera Stegall at KieraS@hohchurch.org by Wednesday, April 10.

Palm Sunday Processional Sunday, April 14, 9:45 a.m.

Children, birth through sixth graders, are invited to join in our annual palm processional. We will meet in Room 5 at 9:45 a.m. to distribute palm branches. Children, two-years-old and younger, must be accompanied by an adult. The palm processional takes place at the start of the worship service.

Easter Egg Hunt Sunday, April 21, 10:15 a.m.

Children, birth through sixth graders, are invited to our annual Easter Egg Hunt. We hope to see you on Easter Sunday.

HOH Community Retreat Registration June 7–9

Join House of Hope for a multigenerational community retreat at Clearwater Forest this summer. Enjoy a waterfront view, communal meals, art, devotional times and worship. From ropes courses and water activities to prayer labyrinths and relaxing by the bonfire, this retreat has something for all ages. We even have an infant and toddler play space. Register to join us in one of the two beautiful lodges we rented and help us celebrate summertime together. Cost is \$85 per participant, which includes meals and lodging. Children, 3-years-old and

younger, participate for free. Scholarships available. Login to My HOH to complete the registration form.

ROAR! VBS 2019 June 17–21, 9 a.m.–noon

House of Hope is invited to join Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in St. Paul for Vacation Bible School. Cost is \$40 per participant, which includes t-shirts, snacks, and materials. The preschool and elementary Vacation Bible School program is open to children who will be 4-years-old by September 1, 2019 through Grade 4, completed by June 2019. Register at: gloriadeistpaul.org/ministries/childrens-ministry/vacation-bible-school/. Volunteers welcome.



Mardi Gras



Congratulations to **Jill Winter**, winner of this year's Chili Cook-Off.

Try her winning recipe yourself: chewoutloud.com/2018/03/20/the-best-vegetarian-chili-slow-cooker-or-stovetop-3

Member Art Show

**May 14–Summer
Calling All Artists**

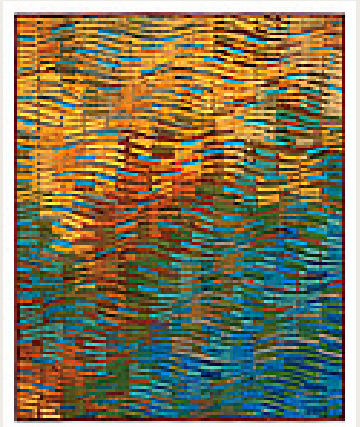
What piece(s) of original artwork would you would like to display in our Cloister Gallery? Members of our congregation will have the opportunity to showcase one or two of their creations for the enjoyment of the House of Hope community. The Arts Committee will find room for all submitted work to be hung or displayed in protective cases in and around the gallery.

Work will be accepted in the Bridal Room on May 12 before and after the service. Contact Patty Paulus if you need to make other arrangements.



Linda Snouffer at her Artist Reception in the Cloister Gallery in March 2019.

CLOISTER GALLERY



*Autumn Wave III fiber wall hanging
Photo by P. Meyer/C.Hooker*

TIM HARDING fiber artist April 9–May 12

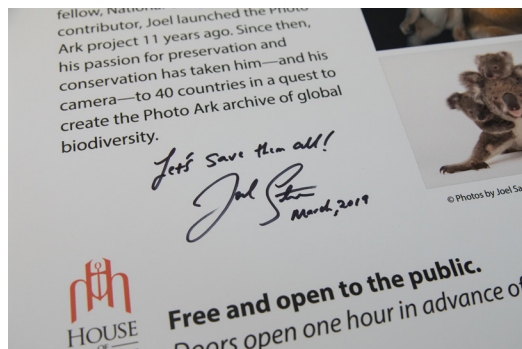
Artist Reception and
Adult Enrichment
Sunday, May 5

"I want to create objects that reflect small moments of raw beauty in the natural world."

After working in painting and photography, Tim Harding became intrigued with the intimacy of fiber and textiles: their textural, tactile richness, the inherent grid of the weave, the pliable plane. His pieces, comprised of cut, layered, and stitched bits of silk or shimmering polyester, have a pixel-like quality reminiscent of pointillism. He uses simultaneous contrast—multiple solid colors arranged in tight proximity—to create the kind of vibrant richness associated with the impressionists.

www.artfulhome.com/artist/Tim-Harding/325

Tim Harding is an internationally known fiber artist based in St. Paul.



Sunday Series with Joel Sartore



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DIDIER SEMINAR

Rev. Robin Meyers, Ph.D.

April 6-7, 2019

Progressive Christianity

Saturday, April 6, 2019

6:30 p.m. – Wine and cheese reception

7:30 p.m. – Lecture: “From Galilean Sage
to Supernatural Savior”

Sunday, April 7, 2019

10 a.m. – Sermon: “Original Blessing”

11 a.m. – Lecture: “Houston We Have a
God Problem”

House of Hope’s Didier Seminar presents
The New York Times bestselling writer.

Rev. Dr. Meyers has been Senior
Minister of Mayflower Congregational
UCC Church in Oklahoma City for 34
years. He is also a Distinguished
Professor of Social Justice at Oklahoma
City University, where he has taught
for 27 years. Meyers has written seven
books, including *Saving Jesus from the
Church* and *Spiritual Defiance*.



*“Progressive Christians must
not surrender the Bible to
fundamentalists, but join head
and heart in the search for a
relevant and intellectually honest
church for the 21st century.”*

–Rev. Robin Meyers, Ph.D.