

Rector's Report (for vestry meeting on March 28, 2021)

- This month, I completed teaching my CALL class on Celtic Spirituality and English Mysticism; and I graded several final papers which were proposals of weekend retreats inspired by readings from the class.
- On March 1, the same day we submitted our parochial report, I submitted an article for the Modern Metanoia website. The article, which is a version of my Easter Vigil homily, can be read here: <https://modernmetanoia.org/2021/03/22/the-great-vigil-of-easterb-marks-slant-on-the-easter-proclamation/>. In note 2, I express my gratitude to Laura Rose for sharing with me an Emily Dickinson poem, which I use in the article and homily.
- As an instructor and member of the Advisory Board for the diocese's Center for Bible Study, I participated in an online class titled "Finding God in the Midst of Chaos" on the book of Ezekiel taught by Dr. Lindy Williams of Fuller Theological Seminary. The class met on Tuesdays from 11 AM to 12 PM from February 23 to March 23.
- On March 4 – 6, Ashley and I stayed at Cathy Hasz's Trinidad Retreat house, thanks to Cathy's kindness and generosity. During this time, Ashley and I decided that it would make more sense for me to schedule my sabbatical for the summer of 2023 (rather than 2022), which would give me more time to form a sabbatical committee and to write a winning application for the Lilly Foundation Clergy Renewal Grant.
- On March 6 (my birthday), I signed a contract with [Apocryphile Press](#) to publish a distillation I wrote on *The Cloud of Unknowing*, a 14th-Century English Christian mystical text on prayer. I began writing the introduction and distillation in the summer of 2019, when I led a daylong meditation retreat in Trinidad on the text.
- On March 9, I met with the Humboldt Interfaith Fellowship on zoom and became an administrator for the [HIF's Facebook page](#). I was also appointed to be the host and MC for the Hope and Healing service, which is scheduled to take place online on Sunday April 25 at 7 PM (on the HIF Facebook page).
- On March 10, after the weekly Music and Worship meetings, I recorded parishioners reading the Passion account for Palm Sunday, which premiered on Palm Sunday and can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Tm5wD4alyw>
- Also on March 10, I met with new Christ Church member Cathy Nickalou-Smith, who donated religious robes and vestments to the church, which were previously worn by her late husband [Pastor Charles Smith](#) (of The First United Methodist Church in Eureka). Many of the robes are either too big or do not quite match the aesthetic of Christ Church so I placed many of them (temporarily) in the Pierson Room and would like to offer them to the Christ Church Quilters, who can use them however they please. Perhaps some can be made into banners to be used during certain liturgical seasons....

- Also, on March 10, I attended an online lecture sponsored by the Graduate Theological Union Library and hosted by the Rev. Dr. Arthur Holder (who preached at our Celebration of New Ministry in April 2018). The lecturer was Dr. Kathryn Barush, Associate Professor of Art History and Religion at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University. Her lecture was titled “‘Shield, help, & bringer of joy’: Pilgrimage through Sacred Song” and it was the 28th Annual Reading of the Sacred Texts lecture. The presentation gave me ideas for my sabbatical; and Professor Barush and the British Pilgrimage Trust, for whom she works as an advisor, will be helpful resources in my sabbatical planning. The lecture can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4FKMCNPD63g>
- On March 11, I participated in a guided meditation and subsequent conversation about the Gospel of John (3:14-21) led by Sister Sharifa Meytung. The program was hosted by the Center and Library for the Bible and Social Justice and was part of their Lenten Bible Detox Series. You can watch the meditation and conversation here: <https://www.facebook.com/clbsj/videos/1859550214194193>
- On Sunday March 14, I led the first Rector’s Forum with our special guest preacher Tripp Fuller, the founder and host of the Homebrewed Christianity podcast. The livestream recording of the forum on Facebook now has 1,000 views and it can be viewed here: <https://www.facebook.com/192337090894141/videos/1243436626051112>. I intend to start offering Rector’s Forum quarterly, if not (eventually) monthly. Our next special guest preacher and Rector’s Forum guest will be [Dr. Alexander John Shaia](#), who will preach on Sunday May 16, the Seventh Sunday of Easter.
- On March 15, I graded 18 essays written by three candidates for ordination (6 each) in response to the General Ordination Exam (GOE) questions. The GOE is an exam required by the church for all candidates seeking ordination to the priesthood. They include questions in the following categories: Christian Worship, History of the Christian Church, the Holy Scriptures, Christian Theology, Christian Ethics and Moral Theology, and The Practice of Ministry. As the co-chair of the Academic Committee and member of the Commission on Ministry, it was my responsibility to provide feedback on the GOE results for candidates Katie Evenbeck, Kathy Lawler, and Barbara White.
- On March 16 and 17, Michael Gonzalez and his crew at Treescape trimmed several trees and shrubs at the Transfiguration House. Many of the shrubs along Randall Street were becoming attractive places for people to loiter, litter, and sleep.
- On Sunday March 21, I participated in the Center for Bible Study Advisory Board convened by the Rev. Peter Rodgers, who still plans to serve as director of the Center for at least another year or so.
- On March 23, I spoke on the phone with [Alison Sterling Nichols](#), who has been hired by Humboldt COAD to serve as the Coordinator of COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disaster). Laura Olson of the Smullin Foundation asked her to contact me and Alison asked me to be part of the COAD Launch Committee, which plans to meet on April 6th.