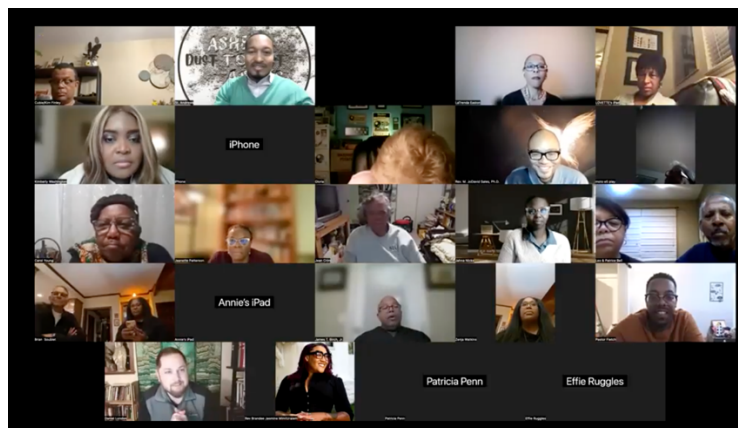
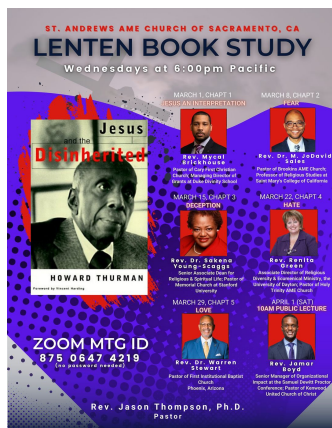


## Rector's Report March 2023 (submitted March 28)

- On Monday February 27, I met with the diocesan Deputation to the 81<sup>st</sup> General Convention scheduled for July 2024 in Louisville KY. I plan to attend General Convention as the third deputy alternate. I learned that a deputy's role is threefold: 1) to participate in elections at conventions; 2) to serve on committees; and 3) to participate in legislation. Alternates generally do not serve on committees and can only vote on behalf of a deputy. They can attend committee hearings and extend the eyes and ears of the deputation.
- On Wednesday March 1, we submitted our Parochial Report. Our Average Sunday Attendance for the year 2022 was 75 while the average Sunday views of our livestream services on YouTube was 140.
- On Thursday March 2, the Sacred Ground Circle met in person at Christ Church for session nine in which we discussed multigenerational legacies of racism, with particular focus on the legacy of slavery in black families and white families, and the legacy of Indian boarding schools in Indigenous families.
- On Friday March 3, I participated in a formation program on the Song of Songs led by the Rev. Dr. Arthur Holder for the Associates of the Order of the Holy Cross.
- On Saturday March 4, I participated with the vestry in the Vestry Essentials diocesan training on zoom. In the evening, Ashley and I attended the Eureka Symphony Sounds of Spring performance (Sibelius, Kibbe, Mendelssohn) at the Arkley Center, with Anne Clark.
- On Wednesday March 8, I participated on zoom in a Lenten book study on Howard Thurman's book *Jesus and the Disinherited*, hosted by St. Andrews AME church in Sacramento. The Rev. Dr. Jo David Sales, a friend from the Graduate Theological Union, gave a presentation on chapter 2 "Fear." As far as I could tell, I was the only white person among the 60 or so participants. At the end of the session, the pastor invited me to offer the closing prayer: <https://www.facebook.com/st.andrews1850/videos/790021112759327>



- On Tuesday March 14, the Sabbatical Team met to finalize our Memorandum of Understanding with Mother Lesley as well as the Sabbatical Budget. We also discussed the

possibility of continuing our livestream worship while I'm on away on sabbatical. This will require more volunteers to assist with the audio output at both the 8 AM and 10:30 AM services. You can read more about my sabbatical here:

<https://christchurcheureka.org/sabbatical/>

- On Thursday March 16, the Sacred Ground Circle met on zoom for session ten, our penultimate session, in which we discussed the five stages of grief in relation to white people waking up to racism, white privilege, racial reckoning, and the call to repentance.
- On Saturday morning March 18, about fourteen people participated in the St. Patrick Sacred Saunter at Sequoia Park, where the trilliums were starting to bloom. You can read my reflection on St. Patrick, Shamrocks, and Trilliums here:

<https://deforestlondon.wordpress.com/2023/03/23/shamrocks-and-trilliums/>

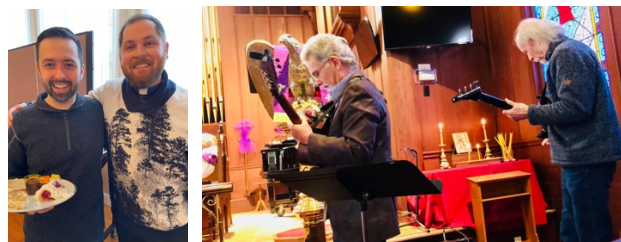


- On Saturday afternoon March 18, I participated in the Interfaith Power and Light Webinar on zoom along with the Wardens, Steve Preston and Jim Hendry. This was the first of two zoom meetings and it revolved around formulating a mission statement for the parish Green Team. Here's the recording of the webinar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=le7TNnIN7XA>. Can you spot Steve, Jim, and me in the screenshots?



- On Sunday March 19, I observed my father's *yahrzeit* with my mom and brother on zoom, which involved lighting a *yahrzeit* candle for 24 hours and praying the Mourner's Kaddish. *Yahrzeit* is the Yiddish term for the anniversary of one's death. My father died on March 19, 2020.

- On Tuesday March 21, I participated in the Humboldt Interfaith Fellowship (HIF) zoom meeting. We experienced a magnitude 4.6 earthquake while the Rev. Cindy Woods (Deacon) was talking to us about the work of Humboldt COAD (<https://www.humboldtcoad.org/>) and Humboldt Recovery (<https://humboldtrecovery.org/>) in response to the previous earthquakes in December 2022 and January 2023! HIF hopes to become more involved with the Mental and Spiritual Health Working Group of Humboldt COAD. Also, HIF is planning to offer a “Visions of Peace” gathering on Sunday May 21 from 3 to 4:30 PM at United Congregational Church of Christ. I do not plan to participate and I also do not expect that Christ Church will participate since that will be the last Sunday before my Sabbatical.
- On Wednesday March 22, I prayed the Committal service (BCP p. 501 – 503) over the body of Heather Petersen before her cremation at Ayres Family Cremation center. Heather was only 36 years old when she died. She was the younger sister of Nicole Petersen-Log, whom I baptized in July 2021.
- Upon returning to the church office on Wednesday (March 22) to prepare for the Joy Mass rehearsal, I received a phone call from Praj White, Rex White’s son, who informed me that his father passed away early in the morning on March 21, the day after the feast day of St. Joseph. Praj was on church grounds when he called so I spoke with him in my office for about an hour, which meant postponing another meeting with a parishioner.
- At 12:45 PM on March 22, we rehearsed the Joy Mass Family Service. I presided while Vickie Patton offered a brief lesson on Lent. The entire service, including communion, was less than 25 minutes. We hope to launch this service on Sunday October 1 at 9:30 AM. After a Finance Committee meeting later that afternoon, I was emotionally and spiritually exhausted.
- Throughout the Lenten season, the Episcopal Bishop of Iowa, the Rt. Rev. Betsey Monnot has been offering reflections for her diocese on my book *The Cloud of Unknowing Distilled*. The video reflections are posted on YouTube and Facebook and can be viewed here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wz0obIPGNsA&list=PLvn6cuSUjruPe0snmJYP\\_S\\_41Xc7vNbj](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wz0obIPGNsA&list=PLvn6cuSUjruPe0snmJYP_S_41Xc7vNbj)



- After the Vestry Orientation meeting from 9 AM to 3 PM on March 25, we celebrated Pam and Paul Gossard’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sunday March 26 and surprised them with a visit from their son Daniel, daughter-in-law Becky, and grandchildren Eden, Alexandra, and Elisha. I uploaded an edited recording of the choir performing U2’s “40” (with Paul Gossard on guitar and Jake Shultz on bass) which already has over 40 views on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tByQx92Dlfs>