

# From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

The wind is howling outside as I write this morning. I imagine there are whitecaps in the Bay. The stars, however, are shining bright and steady. It feels as if all creation is announcing the start of Holy Week, which begins this Sunday, Palm Sunday. It is a time of turbulence and high drama, ecstasy and sadness, hope and deep despair. But through it all, the steady love of God shines through, sustaining us until we arrive at dawn on Easter day, when the whole world changes.

I would be lying to you if I said I love Holy Week. As a pastor, it is the most challenging week of the year as the responsibility of it, setting forth the most holy mysteries of our faith, sometimes threatens to overwhelm. But I would not be lying when I say that Holy Week has the power to change your life. And thus, I am somewhat in awe of it.

The memories of Holy Weeks past are some of the most tender and powerful I have. My real struggle with having my feet washed on Maundy Thursday by a spiritual teacher I had placed on a pedestal, realizing later how much I identified with the apostle Peter. Seeing my Nana's tears rolling down her face on Good Friday as she kissed the wooden cross. Watching homeless folks in the city of Madison, Wisconsin, gather and warm themselves around the flame of Christ during a Saturday night Easter vigil. And water, lots of water, filling Baptismal bowls and fonts, splashing up and running down the faces of the newly initiated on Easter morn. Eddy Bradstreet stands out as one of the most joyful.

It seems that every Holy Week etches something new and sacred upon my heart. So, I invite you to come, experience the mysteries with us this week. We'll welcome Jesus in the sanctuary on Palm Sunday morning, gather in the Upper Room to experience the depth of his love on Thursday, join with others in the Belfast community to bear the cross on Good Friday at St. Francis, greet the sun on Easter morn, and know the power of the open tomb back in the Sanctuary again. See what kind of transformation takes place – in you, in me, in this dear community of faith.

In God's love,  
**Kate**