

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

839 Haddon Avenue
Collingswood, NJ 08108

March 12, 2026

Dear Friends,

I am a great fan of Groundhog Day! But this year, I had a bit of a bone to pick with my favorite little rodent. The seemingly never-ending string of winter storms that he and his shadow caused made me long for a change of season. Charlotte often provided me with a countdown to spring in her weekly emails. It was a great source of hope as we made our familiar, cyclical journey through the calendar one more time.

Something that Charlotte and I do this time of year is coordinate bulletins for Easter. This year I found two covers that I liked, and I gave Charlotte the choice. One was a familiar lily design, and the other is the one that you see at the top of this letter. She said, "we always do lilies at Easter, let's do something new." Ever since this conversation, I've been thinking about this relationship between the familiar and the new.

Our annual journey through meteorological seasons is basically the same every year. Summer humidity gives way to crisp autumns. Winter chill leads to the warm spring sunshine. We know what to expect, the pattern is familiar and comforting. But some years can also bring new, surprising and inspirational things. Thunder in January (always crazy), seventy degree days in February (thanks be to God!), and early spring snows that let the purple crocuses show through (a Lenten miracle). Each is familiar, but the potential for something new is always there...unexpected friendships, new family members, milestone celebrations, unforeseen opportunities.

The season of Lent is like that too. We cover the crosses with the same purple veils, we sing the familiar hymns, we attend the same weekly services, we follow the familiar pattern that brings us comfort. But with the familiarity is also always the hopeful potential for something new. A word in a prayer that lands on our ears differently, a sermon that shines a new light on something we thought we knew, an unexpected moment of illumination or clarity in a time of silence or prayer.

Holy Week also brings with it familiarity, but the potential for new goes beyond hopeful possibilities into joyful expectation because we know the end of the story. We know that Christ is risen, that the tomb will be empty. We know that the Jesus who loves us and saves us is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow, and we know that through him all of creation is made new.

Our calendar of Holy Week and Easter services is on the back of this letter. I invite you to journey with your Holy Trinity family through this familiar time that brings with it all things new.

With Joyful Expectation!

Theresa Hoyt-Chattin
Verger and Interim Ministry Coordinator

LOOKING TOWARD HOLY WEEK - EASTER AT HOLY TRINITY

All services will in person and live streamed on our website holytrinity.us

March 29 —PALM SUNDAY 8:45 AM – Liturgy, Passion Gospel, and Mass

Weather permitting, this service will begin outside with the reading of the Palm Liturgy and a procession into the church. The Gospel is the Passion of Christ according to St. Matthew read in parts. A **Quiche Brunch** will follow the service.



April 2—MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:30 PM – Choral Mass of the Last Supper

A commemoration of the events in the upper room. Foot washing (after the example of Christ) is included in this Liturgy.

April 2-3—The All Night Vigil Watch in the Chapel

The altar of repose will be available for in-person devotions and meditations from the end of the Maundy Thursday service until the start of the Good Friday service. All hours of the watch can be done from home or in the chapel. Contact Theresa Hoyt-Chattin if you would like to participate.

April 3—GOOD FRIDAY 12:00 noon

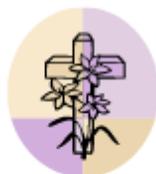
Join us for the Solemn Liturgy of the Cross with the Mass of the Pre-Sanctified and hymns.



April 4—EASTER EVE 8:00 PM – The Great Vigil of Easter

This Liturgy is one of the earliest rites of the Christian Church and celebrates the Passover of our Lord from death to life. The Vigil ends Lent and ushers in Easter. This year the service includes the Lighting of the Paschal Candle, procession with incense, Old Testament readings, and the First Mass of Easter. The service begins in darkness and ends in joyous light and celebration. Bring small bells to ring.

April 5—EASTER DAY 9:00 AM Festival Mass of the Resurrection



With music and incense, Easter will be celebrated with great Festivity and joy! This is the Queen of Feasts for we are heirs of the resurrection life. Please share this celebration with your whole family, your friends and neighbors. **Invite someone you know to attend Easter services with you!** Weather permitting, the service will be followed by an Easter Egg hunt for children.