

"If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God... We are fools for the sake of Christ, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we are hungry and thirsty, we are poorly clothed and beaten and homeless, and we grow weary from the work of our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we speak kindly. We have become like the rubbish of the world, the dregs of all things, to this very day." 1 Corinthians 3:18b, 19b;4:10-13

Are you a "fool for Christ?" After our deep and meaningful Lenten/Holy Week/Easter Celebrations, we take a break from all that seriousness! Some may enjoy a few pranks today, April Fool's Day. This Sunday is our Holy Humor Sunday (Bright Sunday), sharing the big joke God played on the devil when he raised Jesus from the grave! For a moment, let us pause to ponder whether or not we are willing to look foolish to the world, even as we do our best, as St. Paul says, to follow the way of Jesus Christ?!? What should it matter what the WORLD thinks of us, giving away our food, our water to the poor? After all:

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst, for they are sticking to their diet." Matt 5:6 (sort of)

We may not know the complete origins of April Fool's Day, as there are various theories, but one of them is that it is rooted in a powerful decision made in 1582. Pope Gregory XIII decreed the adoption of the "Gregorian calendar" (which he conveniently named after himself!). Pope Gregory changed the Western Christian calendar year from ending more or less after the Spring equinox at the end of March, to the end of December, more or less after the Winter solstice. Those who missed the papal memo continued to celebrate New Year's Day on April 1 were seen as foolish, and called "April Fools".

Others picked up on this foolishness and in some cultures roles got reversed for a day, allowing servants to play harmless pranks on their masters—pranks that would allow the servant a tiny bit of power over the master for a day, or kids would break their parents' minor rules and not be in trouble.

This role reversal reminds me of the way Jesus surprised his friends during his last supper—suddenly getting up from the dinner table, washing everyone's feet! The Master became the servant, which at first shocked Peter, who refused Jesus' offer of comfort...until Jesus said, "unless you allow me to wash your feet you will not have any part of what I'm doing" ...and then Peter became the biggest fool of all for Christ, as he said, "Then wash my head and hands, too!" (John 13:8)

So thank you to all who worked so hard to create a full and wonderful Holy Week and Easter so that we can now lighten up a bit, and enjoy the fun of fellowship in the way of Christ Jesus, the Risen Lord!
Faithfully, *Pastor Mary*

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Lent Madness Results:

The **Golden Halo** goes to **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**, Lutheran Pastor, professor, and martyr against an evil German leader... Many may have thought it was foolishness for Bonhoeffer to leave the safety of the United States in the 1930's to return to Germany... surely he did this as a "fool for Christ"!!



And the **Silver Halo** is won by **Julian of Norwich**. Julian's feminist Trinitarian theology born in the fourteenth century is utterly astonishing. She sees Christ in the role of mother alongside God the father. God incarnate is best imagined via the physical nurture and love of a mother—birth, breastfeeding, and boo-boo tending. And how does she know? Not by rigorous scholarship and systematic inquiry, but divine revelation—God showed her! I am immensely grateful for the education that allowed her to write down these showings, making her the first female author of a book in English.



Order your very own tributes to Lent Madness winners at the **Lentorium**, the Lent Emporium at <http://www.lentmadness.org/store/>. Grace might not be cheap, but these items are a steal! Mugs, \$11; pint glasses, \$12; 24-oz. soup mugs, \$13. Get 'em while they last!

This Week: Apr 3 - 9

TODAY: COPA Planning, 4pm, see Pr. Mary
Thu, 5 pm, **Food Pantry**, Foyer
Fri., 10:30, **Meditation**, Sanctuary
Sat., 5 pm, **Overnight Guests**, PH



Servers Needed for Sunday Worship *Will train*

Contact Lori Kintz, lori@kintz.net
or Pastor Mary,
pastor.stphilips@gmail.com



April 18, 7 pm, **Living with God Men's Group**
April 23, 9-2, **Plant Sale**, St. Andrew's, Ben Lomond
May 7 **Garden Tour & English Tea**
Feb. 3-5, **2017 Winter Retreat**, Zephyr Point



April 3 - TODAY! - Lunch at Scotts Valley Market after 10:00am service. Other than eating, we'll be brainstorming ideas for future projects and activities. All youth in middle and high school are welcome. BYO (buy your own). Wrapping up about 12:30.