Bishop Skirving's Holy Week 2024 Message Transcript Tuesday, March 26, 2024

Greetings, friends. It's Tuesday in Holy Week, and I want you to know that I am holding my prayers for all of you who are working so hard to prepare for worship this coming week.

I'm grateful for our clergy, for our lay worship leaders, for our musicians, for all who work in our church offices to prepare the bulletins, for our sextons and to clean and prepare our church facilities. I'm grateful for all who will stand as greeters and welcome into our Church those who come as regular family and those who may be coming, especially this year, as guests.

We will gather over these next days to celebrate the last hours of Jesus' life, to remember his death on the cross and to rejoice in the great Good News that God raised Jesus from death and that God, too, raises us to the new life of God's beloved kingdom.

I pray that God's Holy Spirit will equip each of you for the work that is in front of you. The God's Holy Spirit will bind you together. That God's Holy Spirit will lead you in proclaiming the great Good News of this holy season. May God's Spirit lead you and guide you in all that you do.

I'll be traveling this week to worship on Maundy Thursday with the people of St. Peter's Church in Swansboro, and then with the people of St. Paul's Church in Beaufort on Good Friday. and. finally on Sunday morning, first with the people of St. Andrew's, Morehead City, and then with the people of St. Francis Church in Pine Knoll Shores. It will be my pleasure to worship with them, and as I do, I will be holding in my prayers all of us gathered for worship across the congregations of the Diocese of East Carolina.

I also want to offer you a reminder of an event that will begin two weeks from today, on Tuesday, April the 9th. With the hospitality of a benefactor, we are able to offer at no cost to the congregations of our diocese a five-week video series that provides stewardship training designed to help you build a year-round stewardship program. It will be practical. It will offer you some ideas and thoughts that will probably be different from what you have imagined before. And, you'll be able to put it to work as quickly as this year's stewardship campaign in your congregation.

The details that you need are in News & Notes and are available on our website, so I point you to those places to get more details. Hurry up and sign up. Sign in and register as quickly as you can. We'd be happy to have a number of people from each congregation so that afterwards folks are more equipped to work together in their own congregation.

Because this is a video resource, it will be available not only on the five Tuesday nights that are advertised, but also afterwards for members of the diocese who aren't able to join us. So have a look, and if you can join us, please do. I look forward to being with you online on Tuesday, April the 9th.

God bless you, God be with you, God's Holy Spirit keep you and carry you through these busy days to come. Amen.