

March 25, 2026

Dear people of the Parish of Wilmot,

I am so thrilled to have been appointed as your Rector. While you won't likely see much change in my ministry, it's a big shift for me. I am a person who has longed for roots for much of my life, so I am looking forward to deepening the roots which I have already put down here among you and allowing new ones to begin to grow with our wider communities.

We are all rooted in the good news of Christ. I am grateful to begin this new ministry at the start of Holy Week. Over the next few days, using scripture, music, prayer and ritual actions, we will enter into the core of that good news: Jesus Christ was rejected, wrongly convicted, crucified and died through human sinfulness. But God did not hold that sinfulness against those who did these actions: God raised him from death instead. And so the Cross has become for us a sign of our forgiveness and a sign of God's love of us, and love for the whole of Creation.

I hope that you will take part in all of the Holy Week services. We begin on March 29 with the blessing of the palms and remembering Jesus's entry into Jerusalem. We then read together St. Matthew's account, beginning with the Last Supper and ending at the tomb. I love hearing all your voices bring the printed word alive!. We will then celebrate the Eucharist and remember that the tomb is not the final word: life is stronger than death.

I attended my first Maundy Thursday service when I was 21 and for the first time in my life felt the profound truth of Jesus's love for us. The rituals of Good Friday and Easter finally made sense to me. I hope you will join us for our three days of worship and find your own faith refreshed as we walk through the ancient Triduum.

On Thursday we will meet to share a meal. With scripture, song and actions we will allow the teachings of Jesus's Last Supper, his prayer in the garden of Gethsemane, and his arrest to shape and enliven our identity as his disciples. On Friday we will pray with the Stations of the Cross, linking his sufferings with those of the world today. On Sunday morning we'll gather together to joyfully celebrate Jesus's resurrection. This profound action by God frees us from shame and blame, healing our wounded spirits. We recognize that we are cherished by our Maker. Always. In that freedom and love, we are able to cherish others, and take part in healing the wounds we see around us. This is the good news of Christ Jesus!

On the Friday after Easter, I will be inducted as your Rector in a brief ceremony led by Bishop Sandra at the Cathedral. We will then set a date for our Celebration of New Ministry with Archdeacon Tom Henderson. These ceremonies will formally mark our new relationship as Rector and parish. I look forward to sharing my life with you as the Holy Spirit guides us in the days to come.

With Christ's peace and grace,
Rev. Sue Channen