



ST. MARK'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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## *At Home Packet*

### *Third Sunday of Easter*

Welcome to St. Mark's At Home! This packet is our effort to help you bring worship and spiritual formation into your home. It is a menu to choose from, not an outline to follow from beginning to end. This is offered as a gift, with no strings or expectations, and not meant to be a burden.

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- Gathering: Suggestions for Virtual Worship
  - Suggestions for your Table
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Join us at [www.stmarksaustin.org](http://www.stmarksaustin.org), and  
on Instagram and Facebook @stmarksaustin

## Gathering: Preparing for Virtual Worship

Set up a particular space in your home for worship and prayer. Light a candle, set out a cross or icon or something similar to help you focus; set your phone on Do Not Disturb, wash your hands. Take a few deep breaths and say a short prayer to prepare your heart to “enter” a different kind of space. We recommend the Collect for Purity:

*Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Prayers and Suggestions for Your Table

As we continue the season of Easter, remember it is a time of abundance and celebration. What might that mean for your household table? What do you have in your house that could live on your household altar / table for the remainder of season in Easter? What special meals might you prepare? Is there a candle you have waited to light?

A prayer before Dinner:

*Almighty Father, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: bless this meal and those gathered at this table, that by sharing this meal with one another we may come to know you more deeply and love you more dearly, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



# Resources for Children and Youth

## CHILDREN

Easter tide lasts for seven weeks, and it's challenging to nurture a spirit of celebration while sheltering in place, but try to set aside some time each Sunday to do something special together. There is good news to celebrate that is bigger than our circumstances! This week, how about creating some artwork together? You can make a mural with chalk in your driveway, or paint something to display inside your home. You are bringing beauty into the world in the spirit of Christ's resurrection.

A simple prayer for your table:

*Dear God, we thank you for this day. We thank you for this food. We are so happy that Jesus is with us at our table today. Amen.*

Check out our [Children's Resources](#) page to view this week's children's church video, which will give a quick summary of the day's gospel lesson and instructions for a simple activity.

## Intergenerational Service Project: Older Children & Youth

How will we reflect back on this experience for the rest of our lives? Will it simply be: "We ate a lot of snacks, played video games, and fought with our siblings?" Or will we be able to say something more? "Yes, it was hard, but we pulled together, looked out for one another. We learned to pray. And we saw God at work like never before." This week, I encourage y'all to take a step out of your comfort zone, and lean in to this community. We are looking for youth volunteers to write letters or send cards to parishioners isolated at home and establish a relationship. Please contact [Casey](#) if you're interested.

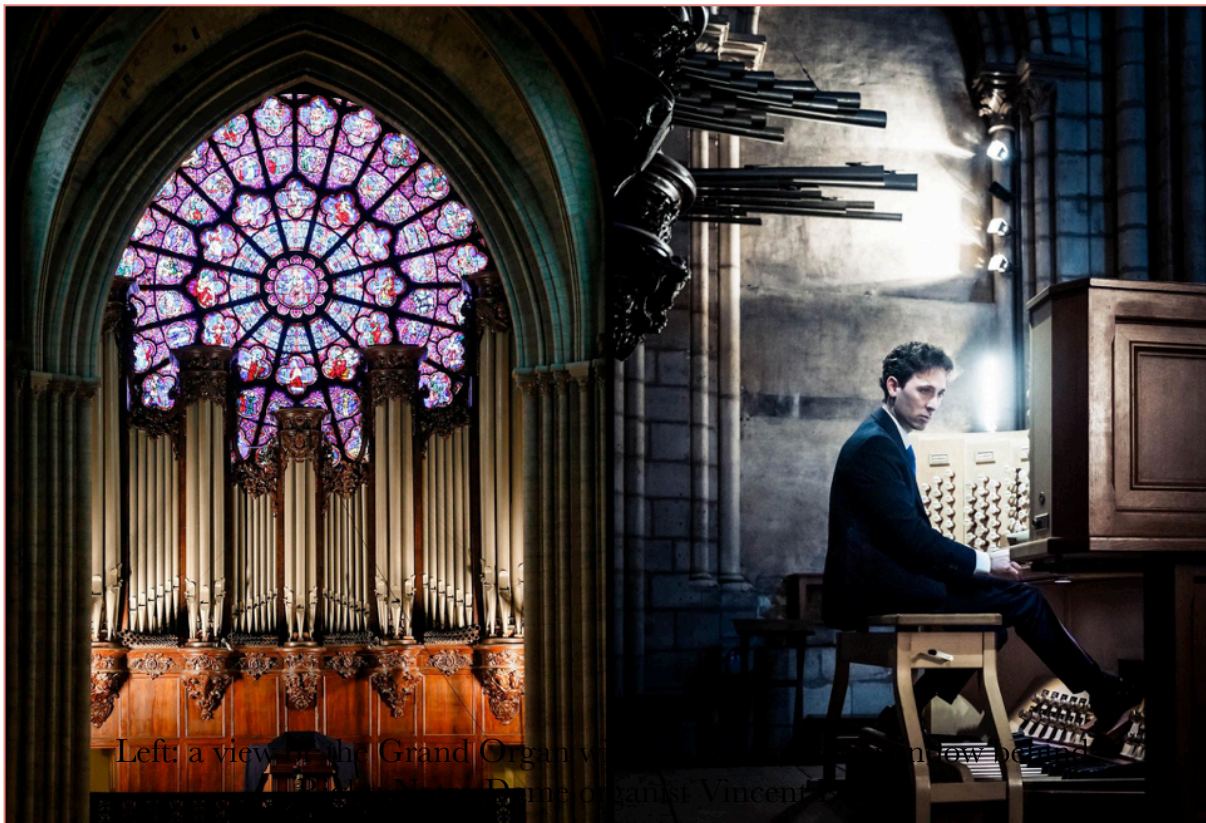
## YOUTH

- **Sunday nights, 8pm:** Zoom check-in and prayer: <https://zoom.us/j/655860629?pwd=Tm00dks4cC9QSTZYV1NybGtKdWZ1UT09>
- **Thursday nights, 8pm:** Every Thursday night we're doing Zoom GAME NIGHT! All youth are welcome: <https://zoom.us/j/760131952?pwd=ZVFGbzIXWCtRZVkozRlI2Z2JrNnI1QT09>

# Music & The Arts

## MUSIC

### The Sounds of Sanctuary



On April 15, we marked the one-year anniversary of the fire at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris. We remember the sadness with which we watched their clergy and congregation observe Holy Week away from their sanctuary last year. We remember the message of Easter hope in their determination to repair and rebuild the great church. This year, as we worship outside of our beloved St. Mark's sanctuary, we feel a kinship with those who yearn to return to Notre-Dame.

A recent story on public radio [How Researchers Hope to Restore the Unique Sound of Notre Dame](#) emphasized the importance of acoustics in establishing Notre-Dame as a place of worship and a space for music. The *sound* helped to create the *sanctuary*.

One thing missing from the radio story was a “before” recording to demonstrate the beauty of music in that great space. In this 2004 recording of the “Andante sostenuto” from Widor’s *Symphonie Gothique* you can hear the singing quality of the organ in the vast nave, along with the sounds of people visiting the Cathedral. If you put on headphones and close your eyes, you could almost be transported back in time to Paris.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqSbn0TdWLE>

Of course, St. Mark’s isn’t so large a space as Notre-Dame. But what we lack in long reverberation time we gain in intimacy and immediacy of sound. Every singer and every instrument is crystal clear, every voice matters in our church!

While we worship online this week, try closing your eyes during the music and use your imagination to place yourself back inside St. Mark’s. Let the acoustic of our beautiful wooden nave unite us in spirit. Let the sounds of worship become a sanctuary for your soul.

**Charles-Marie Jean Albert Widor** (21 February 1844 – 12 March 1937) was a French organist, composer and teacher, most notable for his ten organ symphonies. Widor was born in Lyon, to a family of organ builders, and initially studied music there with his father. Among the leading organ recitalists of his time, Widor visited many different nations in this capacity, including Russia, England, Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal, Italy, Poland and Switzerland. Source: [Wikipedia](#)

The term “Gothic” in the title of Widor’s (1844–1937) Ninth Organ Symphony originates from the distinctive architecture of the Church of St. Ouen in Rouen, where one of the most famous pipe organs in France is located. Widor called the instrument “a Michelangelo of an organ.”

## THE ARTS

Spend some time meditating on the images below and on the next page, by artist Rembrandt van Rijn (Leiden 1606 – Amsterdam 1669): a Dutch artist known for a lifetime of painting penetrating portraits and self-portraits, as well as perceptive and ever more pensive representations of Biblical subjects, both in etchings and oil paintings such as these.



*Supper at Emmaus*, 1629 by Rembrandt, oil on paper, 39 x 42 cm.  
Musée Jacquemart-André, Paris, France

Rembrandt painted the *Supper at Emmaus* twice: both treat the wonder of Christ's resurrection indirectly, but the contrast between them is telling. The first version was painted in 1629. The mood and meaning of the *Supper at Emmaus* are carried by its striking contrasts. His head thrust back awkwardly, Christ is seen in harsh silhouette against a burst of bright light, so revealing himself. The closer disciple having leaped up, toppling his stool, has fallen to his knees, while his companion across the table shrinks back in awe and wonder.



*Supper at Emmaus*, 1648, by Rembrandt, oil on canvas, 68 x 65 cm. Musée du Louvre, Paris, France

Almost twenty years later in his *Supper at Emmaus* of 1648 Rembrandt returned to this subject, again addressing the wonder of Christ's resurrection indirectly, but this time treating it in a quieter and far more pensive manner. In this later painting the matured Rembrandt seems to have absorbed more of Christ's own understated manner of self-revelation into his understanding and representation of the event.

List all the things you notice. Don't rush to interpretation. Only after you have spent some time listing, begin asking yourself questions like the following:

- Why did the artist decide to make the image this way instead of that way? Why did they include this detail instead of that one? In what ways is the artist telling this story in a new way than I've heard before? Who might all the characters in the image be? Who or what is missing from this image?
- Finally: What might God be inviting me to consider through this image?

### **More about the art:**

The Resurrection of Christ from the dead is – by any measure – an astonishing, supernatural event and lends itself to dramatic flights of imagination. The same evening (after showing himself after his resurrection in the guise of a gardener to Mary Magdalene), Jesus joined two of his disciples as a fellow traveler on the road to Emmaus as they walked and talked over the events of the past few days. So unassuming was his appearance, they did not even recognize him. It was only as he broke bread at supper, blessed, and then gave it to them, that their eyes were opened and they recognized him. He then immediately vanished out of their sight. According to the account in Luke 24:13-35 they then said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?' (v 32).

For his 1648 version of the *Supper at Emmaus* Rembrandt lays much of the emphasis here in what is not seen, the thoughts of Christ's disciples, as they begin to grasp who is at the table with them. It is also worth noting that the face of Rembrandt's Christ departed from all historical precedents or idealized representations for depicting Christ and instead was based on studies he had made of an ordinary Jewish young man in Amsterdam.

It was his words and deeds that set him apart and it is on this that Rembrandt focuses our attention. In a setting designed to create atmosphere the light falls on Christ's face and hands as well as on the table before him. He looks up towards heaven, he breaks bread, and speaks. Rembrandt surely counts on his viewer's knowledge of the Bible, sufficient to suggest what came to the disciples' minds: 'Did not our hearts burn within us, while he opened to us the Scriptures?' We too are left to marvel.

**Source:** [ArtWay Visual Meditation](#) April 23, 2017. **E. John Walford** is a retired art historian, who used to teach at Wheaton College, Illinois, USA and is author of *Jacob van Ruisdael and the Perception of Landscape* (Yale University Press, 1991), and *Great Themes in Art* (Prentice-Hall, 2001).