

## Lenten Worship Opportunities

### April 9 Palm Sunday

This day marks the beginning of Holy Week. On this day, we observe the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. It was marked by crowds, who were in Jerusalem for Passover, waving palm branches and proclaiming Him as the messianic king. We also know that the parade was short-lived. The one hailed as the Messiah would die as a criminal in less than a week. Worship, on this first day of Holy Week, begins at 11AM in the Sanctuary.

*The reality is that we gather on this day knowing that the journey to the cross has begun...*

### April 13 Maundy Thursday

This day commemorates the last day before Jesus was arrested. Events of this day included His last meal with the Disciples; the institution of communion; the betrayal by Judas and Jesus praying in Gethsemane (as the Disciples slept). Worship begins at 7:00PM in the Sanctuary.

*When we share communion on Maundy Thursday, we share the memory of the act of deliverance that unfolds on the last days of Holy Week...*

### April 14 Good Friday

On this day of mourning, we focus on Jesus' arrest, trial, crucifixion and suffering, death and burial. It is on this day that the saving work that Christ set forth to do, in obedience to the Father's will, is brought to completion. The Good Friday service begins at 7:00PM in the Sanctuary.

*While Jesus' enemies appear to seize control and cause His death, it is God who is in control and God's will that is being fulfilled...*

### April 16 Easter Sunday

The restrained tone of Lent and Holy Week gives way to the exuberant celebration of God's victory over sin and death on Easter morning. On this day we give witness to the conviction that by the power of God at work in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ, the way that things are, is not the way that they will always be. The power of sin and death does not have the last word - God does!

Pastor Jeff Bell leads us in this day of unfettered celebration on Easter morning with services with a Sunrise service at 7AM (in the outdoor courtyard) and a more traditional worship service (in the Sanctuary) at 11AM.

*He is risen. He is risen indeed.*

## The Lenten Season

The Season of Lent, is a time of preparation for Easter and Holy Week. Lent, which was originally intended to imitate Jesus' forty days of temptation in the wilderness, begins on Ash Wednesday (March 1 - this year) and runs through Maundy Thursday (April 13).

The death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ are the very heart of the Christian gospel with Good Friday and Easter recognized by most as the two most significant days of the Christian year.

Please join us during this season as we focus on, explore and deepen our baptismal spirituality that centers on our union with the Christ (rather than as an extended mediation on His suffering and death).



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# 2017 Season of Lent



This season we will *focus* on,  
*explore* and *deepen* our baptismal  
spirituality that centers on our  
union with the Christ.

**Focus ~ Explore ~ Deepen**



Back in the '60's, we were introduced to something called "the new math." When using new math, we sat aside the abacus, began to bring in personal calculators and entered a brand new way of looking at the complicated topics of math and science.

Every year during Lent, we take on the complicated task of thinking about trying to identify something that we might subtract (give up) during the Lenten season to help us better prepare for and focus on Easter. It's not unusual to see folks giving up chocolate, cell phone use or something else that's extremely hard to live without during Lent.

This year, you're invited to join us as we use some new math! Instead of (or in addition to) giving up something that's beloved, maybe it's a good time to add something to our life of faith. During the coming season, you'll be encouraged to add a spiritual discipline to your life.

To help us along the way, Lenten Soup & Rolls will be focused on Lauren Winner's wonderful book "Mudhouse Sabbath." Each week, we'll take a look at a different spiritual discipline.

## LENTEN SOUP & ROLLS: USING NEW MATH

*During the five weeks of Lent, we'll meet in the Fellowship Hall for our traditional Soup & Rolls programming based on the idea of new math. Make plans to spend Wednesdays in Lent with PPC Brothers and Sisters as we prepare for Easter!*

### MARCH 1 ASH WEDNESDAY:

The focus of Ash Wednesday is threefold: (1) to meditate on our morality, sinfulness and need for a savior; (2) to renew our commitment for daily repentance in all of life; and (3) to remember with confidence and gratitude that Christ has conquered death and sin.

This evening starts with a very simple dinner in The Fellowship Hall at 6:00PM where we begin to observe the most somber day in all of the church year. We are brought face to face with our need for forgiveness.

After dinner and a table exercise focused on the season of Lent, we'll move from the Fellowship Hall to the Sanctuary where our community of faith will be given the opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes, silently pray and reflect on the coming season.

### MARCH 8 "SABBATH KEEPING"

The fourth commandment reads: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it, you shall do no work" (Exodus 20: 8-10). Sabbath embraces a special twenty-four hour rest time that's different from every other day. Other days of the week are given over to work, but the sabbath reminds people that they are finite. They cannot constantly be on the go. There are limits to their energy.

### MARCH 15 "HOSPITALITY"

Safe places and safe people are few and far between! True welcome and nurture seem a long-lost dream. Because we've been welcomed into the love of Christ and received as dearly loved children, we can offer the world a place of safety and healing.

The early church shaped their lives together around the practice of hospitality. "They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all people" (Acts 2: 46-47). Our world desperately needs safe people and safe places. Hospitality is one way that we become God's welcoming arms in a big and often hostile world.

### MARCH 22 "FASTING"

Fasting has been part of the Judeo-Christian tradition for millennia. Fasting isn't a spiritual way to lose weight or control others. However, fasting does open us up to intentionally seeking God's will and grace in a way that goes beyond normal habits of worship and prayer.

Fasting also reminds us that we care about "soul" things. We care about the church. We care about others. We care about the world. So, we willingly set aside our appetite for food, for media, for shopping, etc. so that we can listen and attend to the voice and nourishment of God alone.

### MARCH 29 "GRIEF"

How were you taught to grieve or mourn? Is it an individual or private process? Too often, we're taught that we should be brave; don't ever cry or look down-in-the-dumps! Truth be told, maybe the healthiest thing that we can do is to "grieve." Should our faith community develop a way to help brothers and sisters through the process of grief?

### APRIL 5 "PRAYER"

*Prayer* is a word that describes a relationship between God and ourselves. It's a relationship that we complicate by feeling badly if our words to God don't sound like they were spoken by Billy Graham. During this evening, we'll consider ways that simplify our conversations with God.