



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Journey of Resistance:
**OVERCOMING
TEMPTATION**

A Lenten Journey Through Luke

MARCH 9 - APRIL 13



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2025 Lenten Devotionals

Lent is a season of reflection, repentance, and renewal. It is a time to journey with Christ toward the cross, examining our hearts and drawing closer to God. This year our Lenten theme, *“Journey of Resistance: Overcoming Temptation in Luke,”* invites us to consider the struggles we all face—temptations that seek to pull us away from God’s purpose for our lives.

In the Gospel of Luke, we see Jesus confronted with temptation in the wilderness. Rather than giving in, He resists, turning instead to the truth of God’s word. His example challenges us to consider: What temptations do we face in our daily lives? How do we continually turn away from what pulls us from God and return to Him?

Lent calls us to a posture of repentance—not just turning away from sin, but turning toward a life more fully aligned with Christ. As we resist the temptations of anger, greed, fear, power, or complacency, we also embrace something deeper: the grace, love, and transformation God offers. What might we need to surrender to follow Christ more faithfully?

This devotional booklet is designed to be a companion for your Lenten journey.

Each reflection offers an opportunity to pause, pray, and realign our hearts with God’s. May these words encourage you to walk the path of faithfulness, trusting in God’s strength to sustain us.

As we embark on this *“Journey of Resistance,”* may we find ourselves not only turning away from temptation but turning ever closer to the heart of God.

Contributors:

Harold Frye, Stephen Wing, Sarah Evans, Nelson Townsend, Eileen Thomson, Nancy Kalesz, Dave Pack, Karen Wright, Kevin Johnson, and Kim Krueger

Journey of Resistance: **OVERCOMING TEMPTATION**

A Lenten Journey Through Luke

MARCH 9 - APRIL 13

WE ALL FACE TEMPTATIONS

Grace Covenant invites you to embark on a Lenten journey through the Gospel of Luke, reflecting on the temptations we encounter and the faithful responses demonstrated by Christ.

March 9 - Week 1

“Facing the Wilderness”

Scripture: Luke 4:1-13

Jesus triumphs over temptation in the wilderness.

March 16 - Week 2

“Tempted to Turn Away”

Scripture: Luke 9:51-56

The temptation to respond to opposition with anger.

March 23 - Week 3

“The Temptation of Status”

Scripture: Luke 14:7-14

Choosing humility over the lure of status and recognition.

March 30 - Week 4

“Tempted by Wealth”

Scripture: Luke 18:18-30

The temptation to trust in possessions rather than God.

April 6 - Week 5:

“Tempted by Fear”

Scripture: Luke 22:54-62

Peter’s denial and the temptation to distance ourselves from Christ out of fear.

April 13 - Week 6

“Victory in Surrender” (Palm/Passion Sunday)

Scripture: Luke 23:44-49

Jesus’ ultimate victory over temptation as He entrusts His spirit to God on the cross.

Ash Wednesday, March 5

by Harold Frye

Joel 2:1 "Sound the alarm in Jerusalem! Raise the battle cry on my holy mountain! Let everyone tremble in fear because the day of the Lord is upon us."

Likely no one who has attended school has escaped regular fire alarms. In Kansas, principals are, by law, required to conduct monthly fire drills. As students, we loved these unexpected interruptions to the daily routine when teachers marched us out of the classroom in an orderly fashion. Twice a year, tornado drills were also conducted, but they weren't as much fun as we hid under our desks or (better yet) tramped downstairs to the basement. More recently and sadly, active shooter drills have been added to the routine. As a principal, I dreaded the possibility that a fire marshal would show up and trip the fire alarm system. In those schools in which there were students who were set off by sudden noises or were confined to mobility devices, I usually alerted teachers of an impending drill.

Jerusalem suffered from swarms of locusts that, like an army, spread over the land. Darkness and gloom covered the people and, as the coming time of Lent and our remembrance of Christ's crucifixion, we prepare ourselves for a time when the alarm signals disaster.

The day of the Lord is upon us. Prepare.

MUSIC LINK: https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=a4h_Rqezb2s



Thursday, March 6

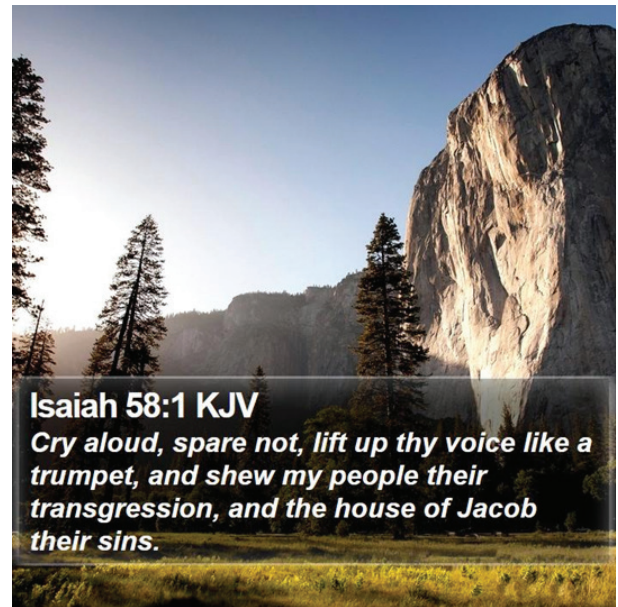
by Stephen Wing

Isaiah 58:1-12 "You wonder why the LORD pays no attention when you go without eating and act humble. But on those same days that you give up eating, you think only of yourselves...No wonder God won't listen to your prayers." (verse 3-4, Contemporary English Version)

There are at least two themes in God's message to Isaiah, here in chapter 58. The first is in the form of a question God wants you to ask yourself: "What is my motivation for acting religiously?" It takes a brave person to ask that question—to be able to discern ulterior, and deceptive motives behind even our most religious actions. People who lean in on Alcoholics Anonymous have "12 Steps". Step Four is, "Make a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves." Part of this means coming face-to-face with our egotistical motivations that undermine even our best intentions. If we act religiously, are we making the sneaky assumption that God owes us—at least a pat on the back (in front of others)? People in my first pastorate sicked me on one of the members who stopped coming to church. When I visited her and asked why, she listed all the things she had done in and for the church over the years, including coming to worship on most Sundays. And then she said, "I don't have to do anymore. God should let me coast into heaven from here on out for all I've done." In other words, she thought God owed her for all her "selfless" religiosity. Can you be "religious" without your ego getting in the way?

Prayer: Lord, I'm trying to keep my self out of the way of my own faithfulness to You. Amen.

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZctNWsWOK8>



Friday, March 7

by Sarah Evans

Psalm 51: 1-17

In this passage, King David is asking forgiveness and mercy from God. The back story is that Nathan has come to him after David had been with Bathsheba. David had also ordered the killing of Bathsheba's husband. We feel the desperation that David is experiencing, begging for mercy from God for his transgressions. Asking God to cleanse his soul, feeling broken and pleading for restoration. The message in this passage may be to relate and empathize with David's agony and the distance he must feel from God, but in this season of Lent, when we all examine our own journey in the wilderness,

and the ups and downs of our faith questions, the fuller, much deeper message is the abundance of God's love and mercy. God's love extends to and encompasses all of us. We have all been where David is, at some point, asking for mercy, grappling with what's next, feeling fearful, and being humbled by the almighty power of God. We have asked God to cleanse our soul. Every step, every moment of our lives, God walks with us.... Through our mistakes, our ugliness, misjudgments, lostness, confusion, poor decisions, greed, messiness, strife, and in the midst of all that, God offers grace.

*"Celestial spirit that doth roll
The heart's sepulchral stone away,
Be this our resurrection day,
The singing Easter of the soul -
O gentle Master of the Wise,
Teach us to say: "I will arise."*

— Richard Le Gallienne

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjsG6IHEUUE>



Saturday, March 8

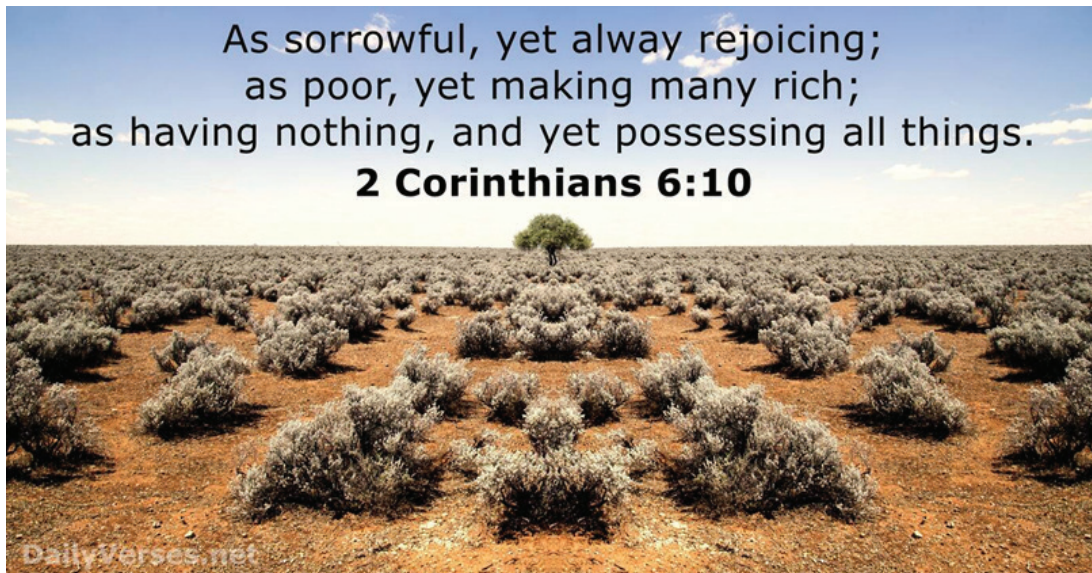
by Harold Frye

2 Corinthians 6:10 "Our hearts ache, but we always have joy. We are poor, but we give spiritual gifts to others. We own nothing, and yet we have everything."

Downsizing. A relatively new term for ridding oneself with unneeded stuff. For those of us who are "empty nesters," the homes we worked so hard to fill with stuff have found much of that stuff to be somewhat useless. When some reach this point, the choice is to move to a living facility that is smaller and often provides the services needed to make life more comfortable. Adding to the frustration of downsizing is that often our adult children don't want any of the treasures we treasured along the journeys of our lives and that fill our houses. So, we turn to giving our stuff to thrift stores and to those who are without what they need. As someone noted, "You can't take it with you."

Paul noted to followers of Christ that, regardless of status or situation, we can have joy in our hearts, knowing that giving to others adds to our joy and, in the end, to the joy of others' lives. Our earthly stuff can help them when we no longer have need for any of it. What better way to follow Jesus!

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7oyU4ca4ljM>



Monday, March 10

by Sarah Evans

Matthew 6:1-6;16-21

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

2 So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

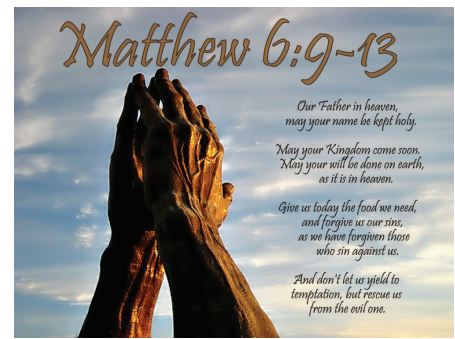
5 And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

16 When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 17 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18 so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

19 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

This passage spoke to me from a very literal sense! Several years ago, I was packing up the kids' clothes in big plastic boxes, and I wanted to preserve some of our daughter's cute baby dresses and outfits. I had read somewhere that moth balls preserve things..... well yes, they might not get holes in them from a moth or assorted bug, but the moth ball smell is absorbed into the cloth, that it will never ever be eliminated! And therefore, the cute outfits cannot be salvaged and are now ruined. They cannot be shared with another child or given to my granddaughter to wear. I cannot donate them to a charity or even use them for a quilt someday. Truly this was a poor decision on my part. My ego and pride got in the way, of simply appreciating those memories. I am sad not to have those clothing items, but I do indeed treasure the childhood memories of our children and am thankful for all the ways we have preserved those memories, through writings, journals, photos, and storytelling. Thanks be to God.

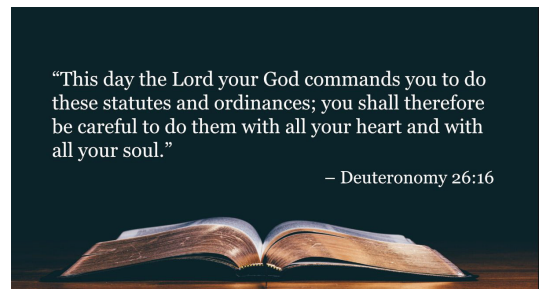
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Tuesday, March 11

by Nelson Townsend

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 *"The Lord is giving you the land, and soon you will conquer it, settle down, and plant crops. And when you begin harvesting each of your crops, the very first things you pick must be put in a basket. Take them to the place where the Lord your God chooses to be worshiped, and tell the priest, "Long ago the Lord our God promised our ancestors that he would give us this land. And today, I thank him for keeping his promise and giving me a share of the land. The priest will take the basket and set it in front of the Lord's altar. Then, standing there in front of the place of worship, you must pray: My ancestor was homeless, an Aramean who went to live in Egypt. There were only a few in his family then, but they became great and powerful, a nation of many people. The Egyptians were cruel and had no pity on us. They mistreated our people and forced us into slavery. We called out for help to you, the Lord God of our ancestors. You heard our cries; you knew we were in trouble and abused. Then you terrified the Egyptians with your mighty miracles and rescued us from Egypt. You brought us here and gave us this land rich with milk and honey. Now, Lord, I bring to you the best of the crops that you have given me. After you say these things, place the basket in front of the Lord's altar and bow down to worship him. Then you and your family must celebrate by eating a meal at the place of worship to thank the Lord your God for giving you such a good harvest. And remember to invite the Levites and the foreigners who live in your town."*



"This day the Lord your God commands you to do these statutes and ordinances; you shall therefore be careful to do them with all your heart and with all your soul."

– Deuteronomy 26:16

The Old Testament is a scary place. Nation rises up against nation. Entire cities are slaughtered and burned to the ground. Civilizations crumble and fall. They are pressed into slavery, revolt, and establish their own hegemonies. The pendulum swings from extreme to extreme and doesn't stop.

In the past few years we have seen wars and revolutions in Syria, the Ukraine, and in the Holy Land. And where will it stop? Only God knows.

Yet, in the midst of this strife, Moses gives specific instructions to the Israelites about how they should remember their history and celebrate their deliverance from slavery.

They are to harvest their first fruits as a sacrifice, take them to a place of worship, and then sing a song remembering their struggles and giving thanks to God.

Then they are to celebrate – and include the foreigners who live near them.

We live in a time of anxiety and comfort. We live in a land of oppression and privilege. We have inherited a world full of grievances.

What should we do? Offer what we have to the building up of God's beloved community, give thanks that God has brought us through the fire to this time and place, and include our neighbors in the celebration.

God, keep us mindful, that in all times and places, you are with us. May it be so.

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3G0r3lqRLlg>

Wednesday, March 12

by Eileen Thomson

Psalm 91: 1-2; 9-16

This scripture reminds us that with trust in God we are granted safety and protection. When difficulties and hardships come our way, fear and disillusionment do not have to overwhelm us because we can find refuge in our Lord.

Difficult times can lead us to challenge and doubt our faith in God. Such hardships can incline us to anger, bitterness and isolation. The alternative is that when faced with difficult times we lean into our faith, feel reassured that we are not alone and in fact feel lifted, cared for, loved and supported.

To deepen one's faith, I believe it is important to worship, to study, to question and to reflect on what it means to be a person of faith.

Coupled with the importance of questioning and seeking to fully understand one's faith needs to be the core belief we find in Psalm 91. God is our refuge, who is always with us. My confidence in this is based on nothing more than my faith tells me it is so. How I hold these opposite concepts to be true is perhaps the mystery of faith.

Temptation to fall away from God is ever-present in our lives. Jesus was tempted by evil, worn down by hunger, thirst, a sense of abandonment yet He overcame it all remaining faith to God.

Lent's focus on prayer, fasting or of self-denial can help strengthen our connection to God so that we can be more equipped to resist falling prey to bitterness, isolation and despair.

Without abandoning your thinking academic brain, accept some blind faith.

"...I will say of the Lord,
He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust..."

MUSIC LINK: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67wC6-kWWS0&list=RD67wC6-kWWS0&start_radio=1



Thursday, March 13

by Sarah Evans

Romans 10: 8b-13 “But what does it say? The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, ‘Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.’ For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

All means all. Everyone means everyone. This is a hard concept to absorb. Does this mean our enemies? Does this mean those who hate and destroy? Does this mean our neighbors nearby and across the ocean who are deceitful and dishonest? Does this mean us when we have been impatient, sharp tongued and cruel? The last sentence is the answer. “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved”. Everyone who asks for forgiveness, who calls on the Lord, will be saved. John 3:16 reminds us, For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. Everyone. From Matthew 7: 7-8, Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. / For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Amen and Amen.

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4nITQhuAkPU>



Friday, March 14

by Nancy Kalesz

Luke 4:1–13

After 40 days in the wilderness, where Jesus fasted and was led by the Spirit, he emerged to a confrontation with the devil who put Jesus to the test with three challenges.

- First was hunger: “turn these stones to bread.”
- Second was the devil saying he would give Jesus’ control of all the Kingdom of the earth if Jesus would worship him.
- Third challenge was for Jesus to throw himself down from the top of the temple — even, quoting the Old Testament scripture, “In their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot upon a stone. (Ps. 91:12)

These three tests by the devil were put to him as he emerged from the wilderness — weak and hungry. We know these verses as “temptations of Christ,” but if we only look at the temptations, we might slip over the most important part of these verses. “Led by the Spirit” in a wilderness, tempted by the devil, and eating nothing, Jesus was as vulnerable as any human being—while at the same time being fully prepared by the “Spirit” as it was possible to be.

- Are you hungry? Turn these stones to bread. Jesus answered— “One does not live by bread alone. (Deuteronomy 8:3)
- Worship me (said the devil) and I will give you control over everything. Jesus answered: “Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.” (Deuteronomy 6:13)
- Throw yourself down from the top of the temple the devil said. “He will command his angels concerning you to protect you.” (Ps. 91:12) and Jesus answered, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”

So how do these things apply to us on our journey through Lent and in our trials and tribulations of our lives?

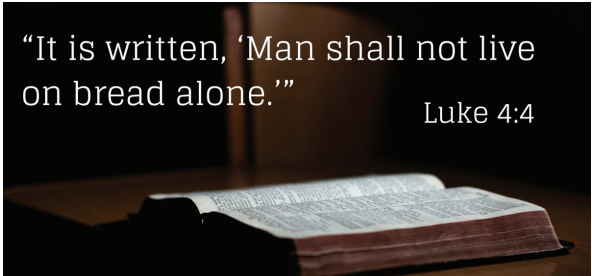
Perhaps:

1. Feeding ourselves with spiritual things—not consuming earthly pleasures or unkind thoughts.
2. Not claiming to be better than others at their expense. Look for opportunities to serve, not to be served. And the hardest of all—
3. Trusting God to guide our lives, the up times and the down times, knowing that God is with us always and the holy spirit surrounds us every moment of our lives.

God provides.

God saves.

God protects.



“It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’”

Luke 4:4

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7qowb6fXQw>

Saturday, March 15

by Nancy Kalesz

Genesis 15:1–12, 17, 18

1. I am your shield, your reward! Your people shall be great.
2. How can this be? (I have no offspring.)
Look at the heavens and count the stars.
Abram believed God!
3. I will give you this land to possess! How am I to know this will happen



God made a covenant with Abram—to your descendants I give this land. The word “Covenant” has many meanings but all bind one party to another. It is a sacred agreement between God and his people and expects certain conduct from both sides.

1. Throughout the Old Testament, we read of three basic covenants. The first with Abram: You will be my people, and I will be your God. Your future generations will be greater in number than the stars. I will protect you and give you this land.
2. The second Covenant was with Noah: I will no longer destroy my creation and set a bow in the sky as a reminder of this promise.
3. Promise to Moses to free the Israelites from the bondage of Egypt and reestablish my people in the land I promised Abram.

During Lent, I am reminded of these promises and realize that the “last” covenant is Jesus. My words — God sent his only son to redeem the world from sin and death.

It was a promise long foretold and continues today. Lent is a time when we remember these things. God promises! God keeps that promise in the earthly presence of Jesus. What greater sign could God make with humankind than to give his son Jesus—to pay the price for the sins of mankind for all generations.

It’s not an “if you” — “I will” proposition. It’s an “I have— “I am.” It’s “I have” forgiven you for all time and space by the life and sacrifice of Jesus— “God incarnate,” “God with us always”—God’s promise to gift the world with God’s own self.

We make no greater covenant than with God creator, God redeemer, God sustainer, by loving and caring for one another and welcoming into our lives the gift of Jesus and the power of the holy spirit to guide us.

Guide us all oh thou great Jehovah pilgrims on our toilsome way.

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1WG7vk-zjkw>

Monday, March 17

by Sarah Evans

Psalm 27 - "The Lord is my light and my salvation. Should I fear anyone? The Lord is a fortress protecting my life. Should I be frightened of anything? When evildoers come at me trying to eat me up--it's they, my foes and my enemies, who stumble and fall! If an army camps against me, my heart won't be afraid. If war comes up against me, I will continue to trust in this: I have asked one thing from the Lord, it's all I seek: to live in the Lord's house all the days of my life, seeing the Lord's beauty and constantly adoring his temple. Because he will shelter me in his own dwelling during troubling times; he will hide me in a secret place in his own tent; he will set me up high, safe on a rock. Now my head is higher than the enemies surrounding me, and I will offer sacrifices in God's tent sacrifices with shouts of joy! I will sing and praise the Lord. Lord, listen to my voice when I cry out—have mercy on me and answer me! Come, my heart says, seek God's face. Lord, I do seek your face! Please don't hide it from me! Don't push your servant aside angrily, you have been my help! God who saves me, don't neglect me! Don't leave me all alone! Even if my father and mother left me all alone, the Lord would take me in. Lord, teach me your way; because of my opponents, lead me on a good path. Don't give me over to the desires of my enemies, because false witnesses and violent accusers have taken their stand against me. But I have sure faith that I will experience the Lord's goodness in the land of the living! Hope in the Lord. Be strong! Let your heart take courage. Hope in the Lord."



David is proclaiming his faith, confidence and hope in God. In one of the commentaries, it suggested that this may have been written early in David's tenure as King. If so, we can certainly relate when we have started a new job or taken on a new role in life. Many times, I've been hired for a job that I wasn't entirely prepared for or qualified for. I tend to sometime overestimate my abilities! Haha! Although I always like the challenge, I find that it's easier to ask for forgiveness than permission! In this Scripture, David also asks for mercy, which is important.

"Mercy is radical kindness," Anne Lamott writes in *Hallelujah Anyway*. It's the permission you give others—and yourself—to forgive a debt, to absolve the unabsolvable, to let go of the judgment and pain that make life so difficult.

In *Hallelujah Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy* Lamott ventures to explore where to find meaning in life. We should begin, she suggests, by "facing a great big mess, especially the great big mess of ourselves." It's up to each of us to recognize the presence and importance of mercy everywhere" within us and outside us, all around us"—and to use it to forge a deeper understanding of ourselves and more honest connections with each other. While that can be difficult to do, Lamott argues that it's crucial, as "kindness towards others, beginning with myself, buys us a shot at a warm and generous heart, the greatest prize of all."

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3l7Tcl1xYIU>

Tuesday, March 18

by Dave Pack

Philippians 3: 17-20 "Brothers and sisters, become imitators of me and watch those who live this way-- you can use us as models. As I have told you many times and now say with deep sadness, many people live as enemies of the cross. Their lives end with destruction. Their god is their stomach, and they take pride in their disgrace because their thoughts focus on earthly things. Our citizenship is in heaven. We look forward to a savior that comes from there--the Lord Jesus Christ." (CEB)

Paul wrote these words to the Philippians in Macedonia (Greece) around 62 A.D. We need a prophet or a disciple to write them to Americans in 2025 A.D.

Many Americans, including many who call themselves Christians, "live as enemies of the cross." I was deeply saddened by the recent national election. It returned an enemy of the cross to the White House, a man whose thoughts obviously "focus on earthly things" and a man who has no use for "the least of these." (This is solely the writer's opinion, not a statement by your church. If you disagree, please provide Biblical support for your belief.)

My election sadness goes well beyond one man or one political party. The entire election exercise is one of legalized bribery, with people scrambling to make their pile of "earthly things" bigger and bigger. Both major political parties are very comfortable with legalized bribery. Both major political parties support excessive military spending, immoral nuclear weapons, and Israel's genocidal actions in Gaza, despite clear Biblical instruction that should lead Christians to oppose these things.

As a Christian, are you speaking up for your Christian beliefs? Do you just let those you see as enemies of the cross win with your silence? Resist! Speak out! Keep the faith! Have hope!

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SjknB5hn3wg>



Wednesday, March 19

by Nelson Townsend

Luke 13:31-35 "At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, 'Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.' He replied, 'Go tell that fox, I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

I wonder, "Do the Pharisees have Jesus's best interests at heart?" Whatever their motivation, Jesus is on a different page.

Beginning with, "Go tell that fox," he speaks defiantly and prophetically, foreshadowing his crucifixion. Then he speaks of his desire to reconcile people, as a mother hen gathers her chicks during a storm; but they will not repent. And finally, he issues a topsy-turvy prophecy, "the next time you see me, you will be welcoming me!"

If I was a Pharisee, I would incredulously think "Jesus has lost touch with reality! Here is this rural 'prophet' and 'healer' who has run afoul of the powers that be. Instead of taking my advice seriously, he decides to run straight into trouble! There's no helping this guy!"

What will we do in this day and age? Will we counsel Jesus about the wise and safe way to negotiate with power? Or will we heed his call and shelter in the shadow of his wings? (See Psalm 91)

Jesus is coming! The only question is where will we be?

God, in times of trouble, I will run to you and find comfort under your wings.

May it be so.

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkxcx6Hh4U0>



Thursday, March 20

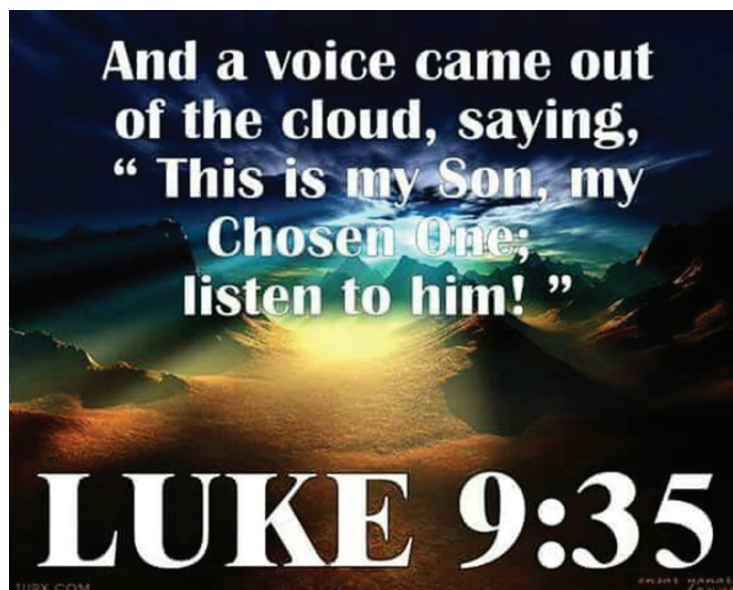
by Harold Frye

Luke 9:35 *"This is my Son, my Chosen One. Listen to him."*

As parents, we take great pride in the accomplishments of our offspring. Borrowing from sports, several examples of parent-child successes can be found: Archie Manning and his sons; LeBron James and his son; Deion Sanders and his sons; and on and on. Certainly not making the case that these parents are gods or their sons are anything close to the Christ. They often, though, tend as parents to promote their sons, saying, "This is my son, my chosen one. Listen to him."

God, the Father, stepped in to remind and to challenge Peter, James, and John that His offspring was prepared to offer salvation to believers. He knew what the plan was that unfolded, and His Son knew the plan as well. But God's example of "parent pride" leaves us with a strong sense of gratifying love. "This is my Son, my Chosen One. Listen to Him."

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtVtKk4EXxU>



Friday, March 21

by Karen Wright

Luke 9: 37-43 "On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, 'Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. 'I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.:' Jesus answered, 'You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here.' While he was being brought forward, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God."



This is the story that follows the Transfiguration of Jesus. Jesus, Peter, James, and John have been on the mountain top, they have seen Elijah and Moses appear. Peter is so mesmerized by it all, he asks about making booths so they can stay on the mountain top. However, that is not how life works. Not for Jesus and not for us.

For something to transfigure, it is changed or to be elevated to a new state. Jesus in the verses before has been elevated, transfigured. The disciples have not. So it is only right that as they come down from the mountain, they are unprepared for the scene that awaits.

The father is angry at the disciples, and I imagine frightened and frustrated. He is looking for help for his son. I think any parent would do that. Jesus heals the boy and astounds the onlookers. You can hear in his words that he is frustrated with the disciples.

As we read this story, we need to remember that we too want to stay on the proverbial mountaintop. It is easier to stay in our relative safety of the sanctuary. It is easier to keep ourselves surrounded by familiar friends and familiar and supportive voices. Yet, we are called to stand against the powers that wreak havoc on the world, we are called to proclaim the Gospel with our words and with our actions. As we confront the evils of the world, that is how we begin to be transformed and begin to elevate our discipleship to new levels.

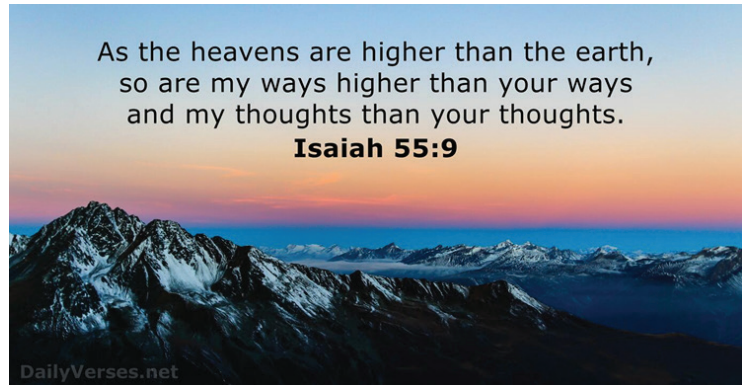
Prayer: God remind us that the work begins when we come down from the mountain top. Give us the courage to go down and meet the people who are in need of your healing and wholeness. May we be bold enough to be your hands and feet. Amen.

MUSIC LINK: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocu0QOod_7U

Saturday, March 22

by Stephen Wing

Isaiah 55:1-9 "I don't think the way you think. The way you work isn't the way I work. God's Decree. For as the sky soars high above the earth, so the way I work surpasses the way you work, and the way I think is beyond the way you think" (verses 8-9, The Message).



One of my relationship hazards in the past has been, what I called, "fantasyland." As I was getting to know someone, I would subtly begin to fantasize what kind of person they were. Slowly, I would make them out to be someone they actually weren't. It kept me from seeing who and what they really were. The danger came when I would act toward them as if they really were what I had fantasized them to be. Then I'd find out I was absolutely wrong about them. They hadn't lied to me, or disguised who they were. I just Lenten Devotions 2025 wasn't allowing myself to see reality. I was seeing someone I hoped they were, but they weren't. You may think you know someone; but do you really? You may think you know God; but do you really? Getting to know someone, especially God, is paying attention to how they define themselves. God, in speaking to Isaiah, defines God's Self: 1) as One who cannot be understood; and, 2) as One who, when we ask our "Why?" questions, we won't be able to fathom that One's answers. In talking to Moses at the burning bush, God tells Moses God's name: YAHWEH. The name literally means, "I Am what I Am" (not unlike Popeye who said, "I yam what I yam"). Or, YAHWEH means, "I will be who I will be." Notice, God's name doesn't mean, "I am whatever you think I am," or, "I will be whatever you want me to be." God sets God's own self-definition in that name. In a sermon a preacher once said, "God created us in God's own image; we don't get to return the favor." The challenge of Lent is to let go of all your expectations of what you want God to be, of what you think God should do, and just, "Be still and know that I am God," (Psalm 46:10). Prayer: I have this sneaking suspicion, Lord, that I don't know You very well—even after all these years. I will try to pay better attention to who You really are. Amen.

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEByc7ObXy0>

Monday, March 24

by Karen Wright

Psalm 45:4-8

"In your majesty ride on victoriously for the cause of truth and to defend the right; let your right hand teach you dread deeds. Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the king's enemies; the peoples fall under you. Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. Your royal scepter is a scepter of equity; you love righteousness and hate wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions; your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia. From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad"



Psalm 45 is unique. It is a wedding song. It begins describing the king and halfway through describes the bride. In the verses above, I love the description of the king. This is the king that we have in Christ Jesus. Defending the right, working for the cause of truth. The scepter is one of equity and loving righteousness.

Part of the Holy Week story we talk about Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey and not on a war horse as the people hoped. Jesus rules with righteousness and compels us (the church is the bride of Christ) to work for truth and right.

During these weeks leading toward Easter, how can we pause to examine those who we follow?

Do our lives reflect righteousness, justice and love? In this Lent, how can we seek to live into these values and follow Jesus?

Prayer: Loving God, you have loved us into being. Help us to love you and to seek truth, righteousness and justice around us. Amen.

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCTFpPmQyHQ>

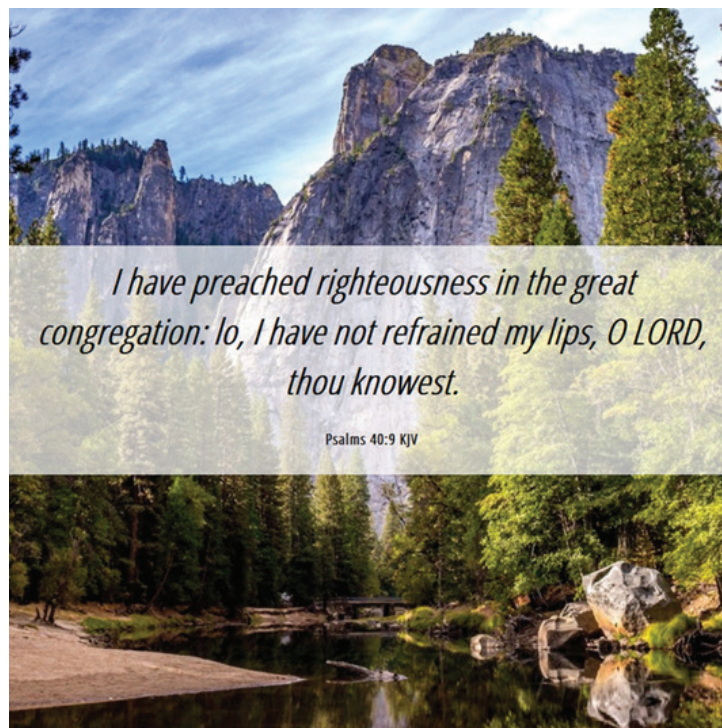
Tuesday, March 25

by Harold Frye

Psalm 40:9-10: "I have told all your people about your justice. I have not been afraid to speak out, as you, O Lord, well know. I have not kept the good news of your justice hidden in my heart; I have talked about your faithfulness and saving power. I have told everyone in the great assembly of your unfailing love and faithfulness."

A hymn usually connected with the season of Thanksgiving, "I Waited Patiently for God," is also connected to Psalm 40. Strangely, these verses aren't found in this hymn as the Psalmist tells here of his proclamations to the people. A line from another hymn, "Give Thanks to God Who Hears Our Cries," seems more closely aligned: "...and tell the world what God has done. Praise God and God alone!" A scientist recently stated that the most constant thing in the world is gravity. I would contend that the most constant thing in the world is God and what He has created (including gravity). The scientist went on to say, "Picture the world without gravity." We take it for granted, I would say, "Picture the world without God." Do we take God for granted, too? Or, do we follow David's example to tell others of God?

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atO5n5bWViM>



Wednesday, March 26

by Kevin Johnson

Hebrews 10:4-10

This bible verse reminds me of an old Buddhist story:

A young monk, eager for wisdom, approached his master one evening as the full moon shone over the temple courtyard.

"Master," the monk asked, "you always speak of enlightenment, but I do not understand what it truly is. Can you show me?"

The old master smiled and raised his hand, pointing to the glowing moon.

"Look," he said.

The young monk stared at the master's finger, puzzled. "But, Master, I am looking."

"No," the master said, shaking his head. "You are looking at my finger, not at the moon."

The monk blinked and shifted his gaze beyond the hand, finally taking in the moon's radiant glow. In that moment, something stirred within him—an understanding beyond words.

The master chuckled softly. "All teachings, all words, are merely fingers pointing at the moon. Do not mistake the finger for the moon itself."

That night, as the monk meditated, he no longer sought wisdom in words alone, but in the experience of truth itself.

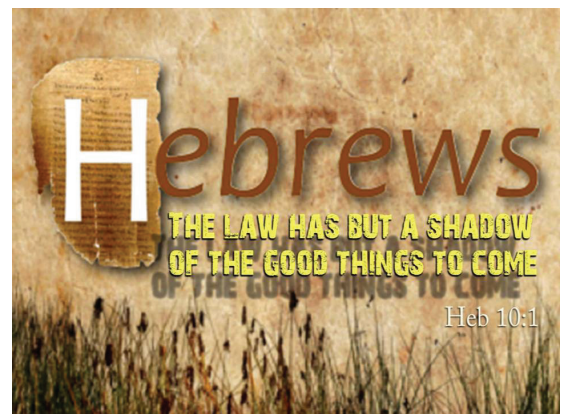
During Lent we reflect on what it means to be a Christian. What does Christ's sacrifice mean to us and how should we respond to this sacrifice? We look deep into our Christian faith to find what it is that points us to the salvation God promises us through Jesus' death and resurrection.

Christian practices give us pointers to the path of this salvation. But the practices themselves are not salvation. We are called to something deeper as we participate in these practices. We are

promised that Christ has come to open the door for us. A door which we could never open on our own. Above all, we are called to love God and one another. It is in this practice that the path will become clear for us.

Prayer: LORD, please open my heart to look beyond practices, rules and laws in order to find your gift of Shalom (life and love) that can only be found in you. Amen.

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YWpsTZdxgfo>



Thursday, March 27

by Kim Krueger

Luke 1:26-38: *"In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!"*



Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. *"Don't be afraid, Mary,"* the angel told her, *"For you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"*

Mary asked the angel, *"But how can this happen? I am a virgin."* The angel replied, *"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. For nothing will be impossible with God."* Mary responded, *"I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true."* And then the angel left her."

This passage is a story of invitation and response. Mary, an ordinary young woman, is drawn into an extraordinary plan. God's messenger greets her with words that might seem incredible: *"You are favored,"* and *"The Lord is with you."* Mary's initial reaction, confusion and fear, feels very authentically human. Wouldn't you feel the same way?

Despite this news, Mary listens. She doesn't let fear or doubt make her run away, she engages with Gabriel, and asks a practical question: *"How can this be?"* She isn't rejecting this news but giving an honest expression of her thoughts. When Gabriel answers with the miraculous nature of God's plan, Mary responds with a profound faith: *"I am the Lord's servant."* Her trust in God overrides her uncertainty.

During Lent, we're reminded of our own callings. God often has invited me into situations where the path ahead wasn't clear, and like Mary, I have felt unprepared, confused, and afraid. In those situations, I am reminded of God's message: *"The Lord is with you."*

Mary's story challenges us to trust in God's promises, even when they seem impossible. Her faith and willingness to embrace God's plan can inspire us to say, "Yes" to the opportunities God places before us. When have you felt God calling you to something that seemed beyond your abilities? How did you respond? What fears or doubts hold you back from saying "Yes" to God? How can Mary's trust in God's plan encourage you to step forward in faith?

Prayer: Lord, Help us to listen for Your voice and respond with courage and faith. Remind us that nothing is impossible with You. Guide us to embrace Your plans with open hearts and willing spirits. Amen.

MUSIC LINK: https://youtu.be/diwAiWtvAQM?si=TQdIBsR0p_1KSmGx

Friday, March 28

by Nelson Townsend

Joshua 5:9-12 "The Lord told Joshua, 'It was a disgrace for my people to be slaves in Egypt, but now I have taken away that disgrace.' So the Israelites named the place Gilgal, and it still has that name. Israel continued to camp at Gilgal in the desert near Jericho, and on the fourteenth day of the same month, they celebrated Passover. The next day, God stopped sending the Israelites manna to eat each morning, and they started eating food grown in the land of Canaan. They ate roasted grain and thin bread made of the barley they had gathered from nearby fields."



I was curious about what "Gilgal" meant. I've never heard it explored in a sermon or in Sunday School. At <https://www.abarim-publications.com/Meaning/Gilgal.html>, I read, "The name Gilgal comes from the Hebrew verb לגל (galal), meaning to roll. After Joshua had circumcised Israel, God said that he had rolled away the reproach of Egypt, and the place where he had done this was called Gilgal ever since (Joshua 5:9)."

In this short passage, Israel has rolled out of Egypt, out of the Desert, and into the Holy Land. God has rolled away the disgrace of being slaves. (Has God also forgiven Egypt for having enslaved Israel? Has Egypt rolled around and repented?)

In this passage, the year has rolled into the season of Passover, and as the Israelites begin the 50 days leading up to Pentecost (when the first grains will be offered), God stops sending manna, the food of the desert; and the Israelites begin eating from the fruit of the land they have been promised.

These are big changes!

Similarly, personally, I am in a season of change. With the new Presidential administration, I feel like I am entering a scary and unknown land, where my worst fears might come true. At the same time, I feel pressure to be courageous and stand up for people who have more to worry about than I do. And at the same time, I don't know what I should do. I am tempted to think that what I do will not matter "in the grand scheme of things."

In times such as these, I know it is good to remind myself that God is with me.

God, as we enter unmapped territory, guide us so that we stay on Your Path.
May it be so.

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmSkprDOWd8>

Saturday, March 29

by Sarah Evans

Psalm 32 "The one whose wrongdoing is forgiven, whose sin is covered over, is truly happy! The one the Lord doesn't consider guilty—in whose spirit there is no dishonesty—that one is truly happy!

When I kept quiet, my bones wore out; I was groaning all day long—every day, every night!—because your hand was heavy upon me. My energy was sapped as if in a summer drought. So I admitted my sin to you; I didn't conceal my guilt. "I'll confess my sins to the Lord," is what I said. Then you removed the guilt of my sin. That's why all the

faithful should pray to you during troubled times, so that a great flood of water won't reach them. You are my secret hideout! You protect me from trouble. You surround me with songs of rescue! I will instruct you and teach you about the direction you should go. I'll advise you and keep my eye on you. Don't be like some senseless horse or mule, whose movement must be controlled with a bit and a bridle. Don't be anything like that! The pain of the wicked is severe, but faithful love surrounds the one who trusts the Lord. You who are righteous, rejoice in the Lord and be glad! All you whose hearts are right, sing out in joy!"

One commentator, Rolf Jacobson, said Psalm 32 is like that impromptu feast that a grandma serves when a beloved grandchild shows up unannounced. She rifles through the fridge, the cupboards, and the bread box and pulls together a feast of favorite morsels. This psalm seems to have a little of everything.... praise, forgiveness and wisdom. Similarly, it also reminds me while I was growing up, when my two older brothers would come home, from either college, serving in the military, the Peace Corps, or living abroad, my mother would break out the most delicious meals, and the dining room table would be set for a king. Whatever situation they were coming from, their presence was celebrated. And this happened not just once or twice, but every time they came home. There is grace and forgiveness in the Old Testament. As well as the New Testament. The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0zCVvqSzzhc>



Monday, March 31

by Kevin Johnson

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 *"From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:*

everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."



This bible verse helps us understand that we are called to be in relationship with God, by God. Thus, it is not a feat we can accomplish on our own. It is a gift promised to us by God and always present to us. We just must realize the gift is there and open ourselves to the love and grace of God's presence and the Kingdom of God will become real for us here and now.

The Wind and the Sailboat

There was once a young sailor named Elias who dreamed of reaching the fabled Isle of Light, a place of peace and wisdom. He built a small boat and set out on the great sea, determined to row himself there.

At first, he made progress, but as days passed, the ocean's currents pulled against him. His arms ached, his strength faded, and soon he found himself lost, exhausted, and drifting wherever the waves carried him.

One day, an old sailor appeared in a large, graceful boat. "Why do you row so hard?" the old man asked.

"I must reach the Isle of Light," Elias gasped, "but no matter how hard I try, I get nowhere."

The old man chuckled. "You were never meant to row all the way. Raise your sail, and let the wind carry you."

Elias hesitated. "What if the wind doesn't blow?"

"It always does," the old sailor replied. "You just need to trust it."

With trembling hands, Elias hoisted his sail. Almost instantly, the wind filled it, lifting his boat above the waves. He no longer strained against the oars—he only adjusted the sail to move in harmony with the wind. The journey became peaceful, and soon, the Isle of Light appeared on the horizon.

Prayer: Dear God, I have rowed and rowed hard to find you. But I am lost. Open my heart to the breath of your Holy Spirit. Free me from my struggle so that I may sail gently into your warm embrace. AMEN

MUSIC LINK: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=shR8jhnE_JA

Tuesday, April 1

by Nancy Kalesz

Luke 15:1–3, 11–32

The parables in Luke 15 are taking some hard hits these days. It seems to me that the intent of these words have been twisted to support what a human could/would do and not what Jesus is saying God does.

The first verses of Luke 15:1–3 are a story of great hope. For Jesus told them how much God loves them and seeks each one of us out where we have strayed, even though there are plenty of followers who have not. I wonder what the 99 sheep were saying? “Oh, yea! There goes that sheep that can’t keep up, the one who always takes the wrong turn, the one who got caught in the brambles and can’t get out. Guess we’ll just leave that one behind and stay with the shepherd. Oh, wait, there goes the shepherd looking for that one again, getting him free from the snares of brambles. Why doesn’t the shepherd just let that one go—but No! God cares as much for the lost one as for all of us. And God said, “Yes, I do!” I do care for the lost one no matter how many times I have to seek, find, and rescue because I love you all the same!

Then again, Jesus gives a more human example of what he is talking about. The story of the two brothers. One who went off with his share of his inheritance and one who stayed home in complete obedience to his father.

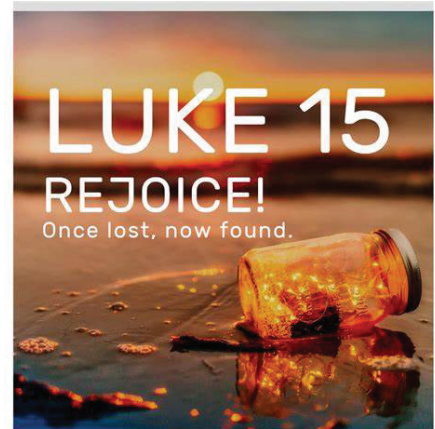
The story is not about what each brother did with their lives, it is about who God is. The younger brother is always portrayed as the “wild” one, irresponsible, prideful, and thinking of only his own pleasures. I’ve got mine, ha ha, and I can live however I want to. Until—as we know—their story, well, until he fell on hard times and came to himself and was so bad off he thought being a servant of his father was better than starving.

Meanwhile, the older brother was doing everything required of him just like the 99 sheep. But when the younger brother returned the father was so filled with compassion that he rejoices with a great feast. Guess you know the rest of the story pretty well by now. The older one is mad. I did everything right, and you never had a feast for me. But, said the father, I am rejoicing because your brother was lost but now is found—he was dead but is alive again.

So, now the question: Who are we? Some of both, I’m thinking.

But the father is always the same. Seeking us and loving us in our good times and bad. Be we younger or older, we are God’s children and He never lets us go.

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ML3kXrGxmJ8>



Wednesday, April 2

by Stephen Wing

Isaiah 43:16-21 Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it? (verses 18-19, The Message)

On a regular basis, I ask myself some self-reflective questions. One of the main questions I ask myself is, "What has more power to influence my present moment: my past, or my future?" What am I allowing to define who I am right now—things that happened before, or things that I look forward to? Lenten Devotions 2025 One of my favorite characters in the movie, "The Muppet Christmas Carol" is the Ghost of Christmas Present. He is a big, jolly, bearded Muppet, who loves to laugh and enjoy the present moment for what it is. He is happily forgetful about what just happened five seconds ago, and equally happy with whatever may come in the next five seconds. Every Christmas when I watch that movie, I always think, I wanna be like him! And that's what God seems to be saying through Isaiah: "Yeah, the past...blah, blah, blah; so what? Here's what I want you to concentrate on: the new I am making happen in your life right now that will move you on into your future. That's where I am. That's where I am being God!"

Prayer: Lord, you have given me the luxury of each day. I will look for You there. Amen.

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-A0tiW5Eho>



Thursday, April 3

by Kevin Johnson

Psalm 126 (KJV) "When the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The Lord hath done great

things for them. The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad. Turn again our captivity, O Lord, as the streams in the south. They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

Faith in Christ requires perseverance. God does not promise us a rose garden, but with steady practice and faith God promises "The Kingdom of God" will be our reward.

Aesops Fable: The Tortoise and the Hare

There once was a speedy hare who bragged about how fast he could run. Tired of hearing him boast, Slow and Steady, the tortoise, challenged him to a race. All the animals in the forest gathered to watch.

Hare ran down the road for a while and then paused to rest. He looked back at Slow and Steady and cried out, "How do you expect to win this race when you are walking along at your slow, slow pace?"

Hare stretched himself out alongside the road and fell asleep, thinking, "There is plenty of time to relax."

Slow and Steady walked and walked. He never, ever stopped until he came to the finish line.

The animals who were watching cheered so loudly for Tortoise, they woke up Hare.

Hare stretched and yawned and began to run again, but it was too late. Tortoise was over the line.

After that, Hare always reminded himself, "Don't brag about your lightning pace, for Slow and Steady won the race!"

Prayer: Dear loving God. You tell us that you are always there for us. Help us to see and feel that so that our faith can be anchored in perseverance and trust in you. AMEN

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZMm9DdwJjk>



Friday, April 4

by Harold Frye

Philippians 3:7 “Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.”

In a particular course I taught some 43 times to future principals, I always asked them to name what their priorities were, what they valued most. Their responses were almost always the same: job, time for friends, family, money, their coursework, and often, some lesser items like their car or other possession. Afterwards, I shared with them my first three: my God, my family, my job, in that order. I went on to explain that it took me several years before I really understood the importance of these and, especially, the order in which I listed them. I told them that it was their personal decision about their own belief in God, but that if they didn't prioritize family over job, they would likely lose one or both.

Paul told followers of his priorities. In fact, he had seven of them. But when he found God as a follower of Jesus, all seven became insignificant. He considered them as losses. His own redemption and salvation came only through Christ.

What are your priorities? What order do you attend to them?

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsszuTjKL2o>



Saturday, April 5

by Sarah Evans

John 12: 1-8 "Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. 3Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, 'Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages.' He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. 'Leave her alone,' Jesus replied. 'It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. 8You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.'"

It's easy to forget or overlook the many blessings we have before us now. In this Scripture passage, Jesus may have been suggesting that His presence was to be appreciated now. Not tomorrow. We are not given or promised tomorrow. We are not promised bright moments, or fairness or great fortunes; but, we are promised the wonder and glory of Christ. We are promised the boundless love of a God who seeks to be in relationship with us every day. God knows us, with all of our faults, and offers grace and mercy. Thanks be to God.

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgkleaNT40I>



Monday, April 7

by Dave Pack

Hebrews 12: 1-3 "So then, with endurance, let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let's throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith's pioneer and perfecter. He endured the cross, ignoring the shame, for the sake of the joy that was laid out in front of him, and sat down at the right side of God's throne. Think about the one who endured such opposition from sinners so that you won't be discouraged, and you won't give up." (CEB)

The online resources for seeking understanding of the Bible are amazing. I googled "Hebrews 12: 1-3 commentary" and up popped a lengthy list. Toward the top was a website "enduringword.com" and it led me to a 36 minute YouTube video by pastor David Guzik giving a sermon to a congregation on Hebrews 12: 1-4. I credit much of what is here to him.

I first wondered about the reference to "a great cloud of witnesses." Guzik tied it back to Hebrews 11. It mentions many of the historical heroes of the Christian faith, for example Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, and that is the great cloud.

I was also struck by the phrase "for the sake of the joy that was laid out in front of him." Was that selfish joy because he gets to sit down at the right side of God's throne? No, it was joy at seeing his people saved and redeemed, knowing the good that would flow.

Guzik shared interesting thoughts about the reference to "the sin that trips us up." In the version of the Bible he used, "trips us up" was "easily ensnares." He said that the translation from the original language could have been any of four - "easily avoided", or "admired", or "ensnaring", or "dangerous."

Sin that is admired? Really? Then he mentioned the view of material wealth in our society. It does seem to be admired. I am sure there are other examples. What do you think?

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NtfZp7pzZnY>



Tuesday, April 8

by Nelson Townsend



Luke 19:28-40 "After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 'Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'" Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' They replied, 'The Lord needs it.' They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: 'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!' 'Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!' Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Teacher, rebuke your disciples!' 'I tell you,' he replied, 'if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.'"

Three distinct thoughts come to mind as I read this passage.

My brother and I would riff on scripture and find funny perspectives in them. We would sometimes re-interpret the passage in modern times.

So, what if Jesus was going to ride into Washington, D.C. in the late 1970s? He wouldn't ride a donkey. He would choose an El Camino! And what if the disciple's budget was running a little low. They would need to "borrow" it, since stealing would be against the Law.

I always chuckle just a little as I think about Peter and James hot-wiring an El Camino. As they are driving off, the owner would come chasing after them; and they would shout, "The Lord needs it!"

And he would shout back, "Okay!"

The second thought is about the stones "crying" out. At some point, I put this statement together with the Muslim practice of The Stoning of the Devil, during the Haj, where they throw pebbles at three pillars representing Evil. And there is also the Old Testament punishment of stoning for committing certain sins. Stoning is an execution by the community. A single stone would not usually kill a person, but a cascade of them does.

What if Jesus had said, "the stones will start to fly?" This would clearly be a veiled threat! The double-entendre of a miracle occurring in plain meaning or a revolution starting as a hidden meaning may have been clearly heard by the Pharisees!

Finally, I hear the song of triumphal entry from the Rock Opera, Jesus Christ Superstar. Jesus sings: "Why waste your breath, moaning at the crowd? Nothing can be done to stop the shouting. If every tongue were silent, the noise would still continue. The rocks and stones themselves, would start to sing!"

Hosanna, Hey-sanna! Zanna, zanna, Ho! Zanna hey, zanna ho, zanna.

Come and save us!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

MUSIC LINK: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=49v_boZle7c

Wednesday, April 9

by Stephen Wing

Isaiah 50:4-9 “God made my hearing sharp every morning, that I might listen like one under instruction. The Lord GOD opened my ears and I did not disobey or turn back in defiance.” (verses 4-5, Revised English Bible)

In every congregation I served, I secretly picked out one person who would be my pastor. I never told them. In my first congregation, it was 83 year old Floyd. Floyd was a long-retired mail carrier. He was, from all the stories I heard, most beloved by kids and dogs. Evidently, Floyd carried more candy and dog treats in his mail bag, than he did actual mail. He had a laughing, barking entourage throughout his walking mail route in that small town. Floyd was also tone deaf, but loved to sing in the choir. Soon after I arrived, the choir director asked me to get Floyd out of the choir—that he was ruining all of their songs. I blew out a deep breath, and, that week, went to visit Floyd.



Floyd loved to play checkers and, like me, loved root beer floats. So that evening, I went for a visit; Floyd made us our root beer floats and we laughed and played checkers. During the conversation I asked if he would take over the adult Sunday School class I had been teaching so I could prepare myself for worship and preaching. He would have to miss the Sunday morning choir practice, forgoing the choir, if he took the class on. But Floyd knew his Bible, and he agreed, happily, to the switch. Something else Floyd knew was how to listen to God. Even though he was tone deaf, he absolutely was not God-deaf. He listened to God like few others I have ever known. If Lenten Devotions 2025 you know the Bible as Floyd did, you will know that one of its main themes is listening to God—that listening is the most important of the five senses when it comes to our relationship with God. That’s why I chose Floyd to be my pastor in that congregation.

Prayer: Lord, I thank you for all the Floyds who have pastored me along my way. Amen.

MUSIC LINK: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUX_Sm2p3Rc

Friday, April 11

by Kim Krueger

Philippians 2:5-11: "In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."



As we continue this journey through Lent, Philippians 2:5-11 invites us to reflect on the humility and selflessness of Jesus. Though He was fully God, Jesus didn't cling to His divine privileges, instead, He chose to serve, to love, and ultimately to sacrifice everything for us. His humility wasn't a sign of weakness, but a profound strength rooted in obedience to God and love for humanity.

Think about the phrase, "he humbled himself." In a world that's all about self-promotion, power, and chasing success, that's kind of a bold statement, right? Jesus shows us a completely different approach—a way where true greatness comes from serving others and real glory is found when we surrender to God's will.

As we get closer to Easter, it's a good time to reflect on our own attitudes. Are you holding onto pride, feeling entitled, or seeking recognition? What if you took a page from Jesus' book and practiced humility in your everyday life? That might look like forgiving someone, helping without expecting anything back, or even just listening instead of always making the conversation all about you.

Today, find one way to practice humility. Do something for someone without drawing attention to it or apologize to someone you've wronged. Call someone who you are on uncomfortable terms with, and sort it out. Let these acts remind you of Jesus' sacrifice and inspire you to live with His mindset.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for Your incredible example of humility and love. Help me to let go of pride and selfishness and to adopt Your mindset. Teach me to serve others with grace and compassion, and may my life reflect Your glory. During this Lenten season, transform my heart so I can walk more closely with You. Amen.

MUSIC LINK: <https://youtu.be/bQkLeZTuvqQ?si=lt9F10BNNNzcJJHc>

Saturday, April 12

by Harold Frye

Luke 23:48-49 *“And when all the crowd that came to see the crucifixion saw what had happened, they went home in deep sorrow. But Jesus’ friends, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance watching.”*

In his 2016 book, “Blood at the Root: A Racial Cleansing in America,” author Patrick Phillips describes all the horrible details of the massacre of Black people, including lynching, a frequently used method of execution in the early 1900s. Lynchings were gruesome and often without merit or cause other than the person (usually a male) was Black. Lynchings drew crowds of spectators, some who



were sickened at the sight of an individual who was most times also tortured. Most spectators, though, did not object to the execution. Much like Germans who murdered Jews during World War II, those who watched a Black person’s lynching had been desensitized by propaganda and considered these individuals to be less than human.

The crowds that witnessed the crucifixion of Jesus had been desensitized by the pharisees who were threatened by Jesus. They knew that Jesus was innocent and had been declared to be so by Herod and Pilate. But without proof of guilt, the crowds pushed Roman soldiers into taking action. Just as Blacks who were tortured centuries later, Jesus was tortured and mocked.

In all these instances, crowd mentality or crowd psychology was at work. The actions of the group were different than any one person within the group. Also known as herd mentality, we are vulnerable to its effects and, as the crowds who “went home in deep sorrow” did so at seeing Jesus crucified. Areas a bit less morbid than Lynchings and crucifixions on a cross can include politics, sports fans, investing, fashion, and more.

Are your beliefs in God strong enough to resist crowd mentality?

MUSIC LINK: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4w3MQ3_WoY

Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday

by Karen Wright

Psalm 118: 19-27 "I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord."

Just as the crowd on that Palm Sunday, welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem waving palm branches and shouting Hosanna! Which means "save us!" The writer of Psalm 118 certainly makes that same plea. The psalmist cries out to God for deliverance in these verses.

Certainly the way the world has been going as of late, many have been crying out "Save us!" We are reminded that the stone the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. We can hold onto the fact that Jesus is indeed our hope and our salvation. Even in the midst of trouble, we are reminded that this is the Lord's day and that is reason to rejoice.

May we all lean into the steadfast love of the Lord as we enter into this Holy Week. As we travel with Jesus not only cheering as he rides into Jerusalem, but throughout a week where we are reminded that we must go through the darkness of death to reach the joy of resurrection!

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BcEr9OkFP-s>



Monday, April 14

by Dave Pack

Luke 22: 31-34 "Simon, Simon, look! Satan has asserted the right to sift you all like wheat. However, I [Jesus] have prayed for you that your faith won't fail. When you have returned, strengthen your brothers and sisters. Peter responded, 'Lord, I'm ready to go with you, both to prison and death!' Jesus replied, 'I tell you, Peter, the rooster won't crow today before you have denied three times that you know me.'" (CEB)

The complete text for today's Lenten devotional is 114 verses starting with Luke 22:14 and ending with Luke 23: 56. That text begins with the Last Supper and ends with Jesus in the tomb. This devotional focuses on Jesus' prediction of Peter's triple denial of Jesus before a cock crows and Peter making that prediction come true, as written in Luke 22: 56-61.

Biblia, Holy Bible Online says the following about Peter's denial of Christ: "The moment reveals human frailty and the ability to fail, even among the most fervent followers of Christ. However, this story also highlights the greatness of Jesus' grace and forgiveness, as he restored Peter after the resurrection, confirming him as one of the pillars of the early church."



Some interesting aspects of Peter's life came to light in looking beyond his triple denial of Jesus. He was born "Simon," about the same time as Jesus was born. Perhaps around 30 A.D., Jesus added the name "Peter," from the Greek "petros," meaning "rock."

He was called a disciple, a follower or learner of a teacher or leader, while Jesus was on Earth. He became an apostle, a messenger or one who is sent to spread the teachings of others, for the approximately 30 years of his life after Jesus' crucifixion.

Some would suggest that the Gospel of Mark could be considered to be the Gospel of Peter. The attributed author of Mark, John Mark, was a companion of Peter who may have primarily written what Peter dictated to him.

Peter's death around 65 A.D. is presumed to have been from crucifixion. He insisted that it be done upside down because he was unworthy of having it done in the same manner as Jesus did.

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uS2biAWvfUc>

Tuesday, April 15

by Stephen Wing

*Isaiah 42:1-9 "He won't tire out and quit. He won't be stopped until he's finished his work—to set things right on earth... To make a start at bringing people into the open, into light: opening blind eyes, releasing prisoners from dungeons, emptying the dark prisons."
(verse 4, 7, The Message)*

Ebenezer Elliot was an iron worker in Sheffield, England in the mid to late 1800's. He was also a fairly prolific poet, who published his poetry in local papers and periodicals. One such poem was, "When Wilt God Save the People?", that he wrote in 1846. It was later put to music by Josiah Booth in 1888. Here are the first two stanzas":

When wilt thou save the people?
O God of mercy when?
Not kings and lords
But nations Not thrones and crowns
But men
Flowers of thy heart
O God are they
Let them not pass, like weeds, away
Their heritage, a sunless day God save the people!
Shall crime bring crime forever?
Strength aiding still as strong?
Is it thy will, O Father
That men shall toil for wrong?
Oh, no, say thy mountains
No, say thy skies
Man's clouded sun shall brightly rise
And songs be heard, instead of sighs
God save the people!



Many of you may recognize these words, not realizing they were originally from an 1800's hymn poem. You heard them in the rock opera, "Godspell" in the 1970's. Maybe Elliot was reading Isaiah 42 when he was inspired to write this poem. Maybe he was looking around him and seeing that injustice and chaos had not ebbed but was flowing freely. And that's why these lyrics resonated with the writers of "Godspell", and so many people in the 1970's: injustice, racism, war, political abuses, and more were tearing our country apart. God's promises to Isaiah were written almost 2500 years ago. And still, today, we sing out, in each generation, "When wilt God save the people, O God of mercy when?"
Prayer: Lord, when will all this chaos end? Amen.

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMPTLuKnu-A>

Wednesday, April 16

by Karen Wright

Psalm 36: 5-11

*“Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.*

*6 Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains;
your judgments are like the great deep;
you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.*

*7 How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.*

*8 They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.*

*9 For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.*

*10 O continue your steadfast love to those who know you
and your salvation to the upright of heart!*

*11 Do not let the foot of the arrogant tread on me
or the hand of the wicked drive me away.”*

Verses 5, 7, and 10 use one of my favorite words. Steadfast is translated from the Hebrew word *hesed*. Steadfast love has been used to describe this word that comes up throughout the Book of Psalms. It is an enduring love, a commitment beyond what is duty. It is a love that is always with us. The steadfast love of the Lord is a love that follows us all of our days.

We can take heart that God is always with us. That we can take refuge under the shadow of God’s wings. That in the light of God we see light. This Psalm is a wonderful reminder of God’s love always surrounding us.

As we go into the Great Three Days of Easter, where do you see God’s love surrounding you? Where do you experience God’s *hesed*?

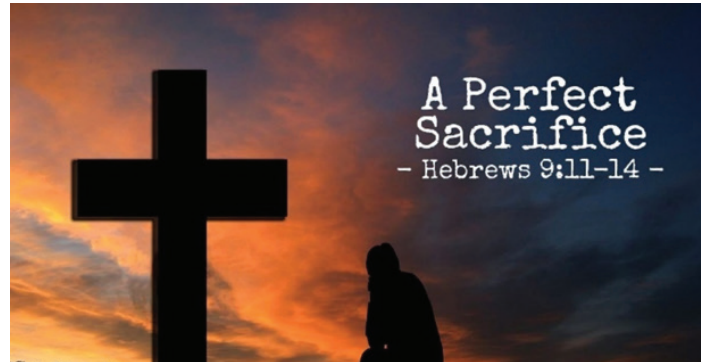
MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SiMjdV7t7so>



Thursday, April 17 Maundy Thursday

by Kevin Johnson

Hebrews 9:11-15 "But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of



bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance."

God is in covenant with us. His covenantal promise to us is eternal life. But what is God's expectation of us?

Perhaps God does not hold expectations of us. God's grace and salvation are freely given. So doesn't that mean that we are not "required" by God to do anything to receive salvation?

But Christ says that we are to "Love the Lord your God with all of your heart, your soul and your mind." And to "Love your neighbor as yourself." Is this God's expectation? I think perhaps not. I think instead this is God's finger pointing at a path. What happens then if we choose to take the path or we choose not to take the path?

I don't know... but I believe that we will find the peace of God, joy, love and grace when we do follow the path. Christ shows us the way. All we need to do is humble ourselves enough to Love Him and all others. I guess that's a mighty tall order though!

Prayer: Lord, open my heart so that I may accept Your love. Help me to love You with all my heart, soul, and mind, and reflect Your grace in all I do. Help me to love my neighbors ruthlessly and selflessly, showing kindness, compassion, and forgiveness as You have shown me. Amen.

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02HMgMhVwGU>

Good Friday, April 18

by Nancy Kalesz

Psalm 22

It is Good Friday, and we pause to remember Psalm 22, vs. 1 and 2, which begins with the words Jesus said, as he suffered and died on the cross. This psalm is a prayer for deliverance, a cry for help from one in great distress. Take time today to read the entire 31 verses and ponder what the psalmist is saying. This psalm is not only speaking about an individual but to the community—they cried out in trouble, and God delivered them.



“Verses 9–11 speak of the memory of God’s care for the psalmist up to now and is a claim of youth in the face of despair and leads to the plea for God to be present and to help.” (annotations from Harper Collins Study Bible)

How we read this psalm is important because it speaks not only to the relationship of an individual with God but with God’s relationship with the community as well.

Perhaps, after reading the entire psalm, the cry for deliverance in the first two verses that Jesus cried out had more meaning for those who heard him and for all of us over time who have experienced the deliverance from suffering and hostility, from King David to now.

The human condition, of getting in the hard places of life, has gone on from Adam and Eve to today. Most of us have appealed to God many times when we are facing hard times. Jesus cried out on the cross—we cry out in our own pain.

Take time to read the entire psalm today. What do you hear: contrition, praise, assurance that God is there, saving grace.

Think of your own times of life and the times of all the people who have cried out to God—and are crying out now. God hears—God is present with you (them).

Think how you can proclaim God’s saving grace by helping another carry their burden. “He is not heavy, he’s my brother,” comes to me as a reminder that God’s shared love is not our doing — it is God’s will for us!

Peace and Grace to all.

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3YNrluAXHA>

Saturday, April 19

by Kevin Johnson

Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24 "I am one who has seen affliction under the rod of God's wrath; he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light; against me alone he turns his hand, again and again, all day long. He has made my flesh and my skin waste away, and broken my bones; he has besieged and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; he has made me sit in darkness like the dead of long ago. He has walled me about so that I cannot escape; he has put heavy chains on me; though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer; he has blocked my ways with hewn stones, he has made my paths crooked. The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,[a] his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'"

During Lent many Christians practice daily reminders in order to move deeper into their faith and closer to their God. These reminders include giving up favorite goodies or establishing some daily routine which will reintroduce Christ's presence in the World into our consciousness.

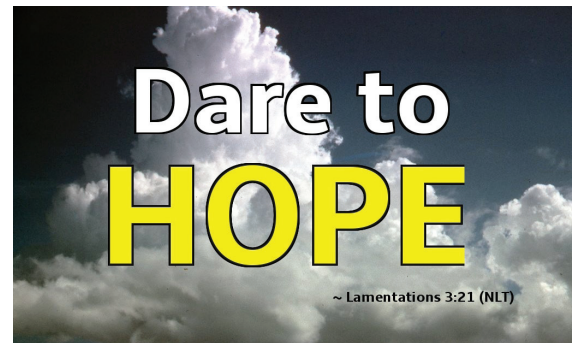
These days of unfavorable political realities cause pain, worry and suffering in the hearts of many. Fear that some of life's blessings will be lost to those in power causes anxiety, anger and even hatred in our hearts.

Christ came into a world divided in order to image a new reality. A world where the most important things can never be lost. Our vision of this new world is painted with the hues we broadcast from our tortured hearts. Some of the seeds that we water grow and smother with weeds the sweet, ripe fruit of Christ's offered new reality.

We know each of us are different from others in many ways. We can abhor the way those most different from ourselves seek to live in society. We can justify our revulsion steeped in our own sense of being right. We can assign grotesque motivations to others and thus ignore the self-serving position we ourselves are taking. For we are right and they... why they are grotesque.

Or... we can take the gift of pain and suffering that God places in our hearts to realize a deeper message is to be had. A warning that our self interest may not be the most important thing for the world at this time. The beauty in this world and all of those we are called to love can be found. But we need to raise the sail that catches the breath of the Holy Spirit moving in this world. We need to search for this wind to find it. We need to realize that our intention is the starting place for finding this true home in our heart. The home which allows us to lay down peacefully with the lions and the lambs and bask in the warm embracing sunlight of God's Shalom. The Kingdom of God.

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jt4oX-zFIHw>



Easter Sunday, April 20

by Nelson Townsend

Acts 10:34-43 "Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."



If you are not familiar with the “Divine Reading” of scripture, aka Lectio Divina, here is a short explanation (with help from Wikipedia).

Lectio Divina is a monastic practice of scriptural reading, meditation, prayer, and contemplation (reflection) intended to promote closeness with God. It does not treat Scripture as texts to be studied, but as the “living word.” The purpose is not analysis but to absorb the passage with Christ as the key to its meaning.

If you have time, read the passage a few times to yourself, slowly. Speaking the words may allow you to experience them in a different way.

After reading this passage several times, the phrases that glimmered for me were God does not show favoritism, [Jesus] went around doing good and healing, [Jesus] was seen by [those] who ate and drank with him, and [we] receive forgiveness of sins through his name.

When I meditate on these phrases, I’m reminded of God’s graciousness, that Jesus’ life was just as important as his death, that Jesus makes friends with those who spend time with him, and forgiveness of sins is the result of knowing Jesus.

God, thank you for the new life I have with Jesus, whom I seek to grow closer with, day by day. May it be so.

I’ve spent two days reflecting on this passage. I kept on thinking about having a meal with Jesus and that those who knew him best were the first to see him raised to new life.

Where will this passage lead you?

MUSIC LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixNgpK71otM>



Holy Week Services

April 13, Palm / Passion Sunday

Worship at 9:30am

- Music by the Chancel & Exaltation! Singers, Joy! & Celebration! children choirs.

April 17, Maundy Thursday

Worship at 7:30pm

Sacrament of Communion

- Music by the Praise Team.

April 18, Good Friday/Tenebrae Service

Worship at 7:30pm

- Music by Chancel & Exaltation! Singers.

April 20, Easter Sunday Worship

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Worship services at 9am and 11am

Sacrament of Communion.

- Music at 9am by the Praise Team.
- Music at 11am by Chancel & Exaltation! Singers, Charter Ringers, & Chancel Brass.

(NOTE: The flowering of the cross begins 15 minutes prior to the start of each worship service.)

Download a PDF copy of this booklet, get additional Lenten resources, and learn more about activities during Lent at gcpc.org/lent.



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church celebrates God's all-inclusive love. In gratitude for that love, we act in ways to make God's presence visible in our families, in the greater Kansas City community, and in the world.

Everything we are and everything we do is a celebration of the love we feel as God's beloved children.

With gratitude and a spirit of adventure, we are sent to serve Christ in the world—spreading kindness to all and striving for justice grounded in God's boundless love.

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gcpc.org/lent

In addition to in-person worship, our service is also streamed online on our website, Facebook and YouTube channel.