

Castile United Church of Christ
2022 Lenten Booklet

Each day during Lent, spend time in quiet solitude. If you don't already have a regular prayer time, begin with ten to fifteen minutes a day. When you sit in your chosen solitary place, distractions will likely bombard you. This is normal.

Breathe deeply and relax.

Identify the thoughts that enter your consciousness. Especially notice your fears and worries or anything that feels overwhelming or chaotic.

You may experience a feeling of being overworked, of having no time for rest.

You may become aware of anxiety about relationships, a feeling that your interactions with others are somehow out of balance.

You may feel an emptiness, a sense that you want to do something. An element of wilderness exists in all these situations; these are the parts of ourselves we tend to fight against.

These are also the parts of ourselves that we will begin to befriend, settling them down and clearing more internal space.

ASH WEDNESDAY, March 2, 2022

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time." 1 Peter 5:6

Simple Formula for Living

Submitted by Marcy VanZandt

1. Live beneath your means.
2. Return everything you borrow.
3. Stop blaming other people.
4. Admit when you make a mistake.
5. Give clothes not worn to charity
6. Do something nice, and try not to get caught.
7. Listen more...talk less.
8. Everyday take a 30 minute walk.
9. Strive for excellence, not perfection.
10. Be on time...no excuses.
11. Don't argue. Get organized.
12. Be kind to unkind people.
13. Let someone cut ahead of you in line.
14. Take time to be alone.
15. Cultivate good manners.
16. Be humble.
17. Realize and accept that life isn't fair.
18. Know when to keep your mouth shut.
19. Go an entire day without criticizing anyone.
20. Learn from the past- prepare for the future.
21. Live life in the present.
22. Don't sweat the small stuff...it's all small stuff!

Thursday, March 3, 2022

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master,

Grant that I may not so much seek

To be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;

To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Friday, March 4, 2022

"Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you." Jeremiah 29:12

Suggested Lenten Practices

1. Daily prayer/meditation time. Start with just a few minutes each day.
2. Media fast. Abstain from watching TV, listening to music, reading, participating in social media.
3. Meditative walks. Daily, mindful walks.
4. Art. Daily creative activity.
5. Journaling. A daily practice of writing.
6. Community activities. Attending church or other community functions.
7. Service. Encountering Christ in those whom you serve.

Saturday, March 5, 2022

"We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name." Psalm 33:20-21

He Did It For Me

by Lenora McWhorter

It was for me Christ Jesus died.
So that I could live, He was crucified.
Jesus was innocent, he knew no sin.
But yet He died for sinful men.
It was for me Jesus paid the price.
He became the ultimate sacrifice.
Oh, the depth of the love of one.
Who would offer up his only son?

It was for love God gave His all
to restore mankind after the fall.
The debt was huge and the price high,
therefore an innocent man had to die.

God could find no one else to qualify
to pay the awful debt for you and I.
Because sin was found in one and all,
only Jesus could answer the call.

So out of His endless love for man
God unfolded His perfect plan.
Jesus said, "I'll give my life for man."
And God said, "I'll raise you up again."

And through the death of Jesus Christ
we all have access to eternal life.
From east to west, in all directions,
we give thanks for the resurrection.

Sunday, March 6, 2022

“Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.” Joel 2: 13

**“Umm, I didn’t ask you to give up coffee or chocolate.
I asked you to surrender your life.” – God**

We are now in the Lenten season and let me begin by first sharing the conclusion of my post in case you have an attention span of a 2-year-old:

Originally written by Eugene Cho
Submitted by Jen Griesbaum

Lent isn’t about you or about what you’re giving up.
But we’ll get to that soon.

For those that might not be familiar with Lent, it is the 40 day period (not including Sundays) between Ash Wednesday and Holy Saturday that has traditionally been a time of preparation for those who were preparing for baptism and later expanded to include the larger Christian community. It marks a time of prayer, penance, repentance, humility, self-denial, and soul-searching as one draws closer to the Passion of Christ and ultimately, culminating in the celebration of the Resurrection.

I appreciate the Lenten season for many and various reasons. In fact, the Lenten season is important to me because it helps me create rhythm in my life – something especially helpful when busyness, chaos, randomness, clutter, and lots of noise inundate my life. I deeply appreciate Lent because it helps me prepare for Passion Week – the final week of Christ. And while we know Easter brings upon us the celebration of the resurrection, I am grateful that the Lenten season more thoughtfully and deeply prepares me for Crucifixion Friday or known by most as Good Friday.

This year, I’m choosing – along with some other things – to give up “coffee” during the Lent season. Trust me, for someone that runs a cafe, this will certainly be a “test” of self-denial.

But, here’s the question:

In what way does the self-denial of whatever makes you more mindful of Christ and the Kingdom of God?

For me, I don’t want to think of it as only giving up but rather a season of more deeply ‘giving in’ or ‘giving to’...

- In what way am I more compelled to give in to the ways of God?
- How am I more deeply giving in and giving to – to my neighbors, wife, children, church, strangers, refugees, etc?
- How am I more deeply giving or growing in stewardship, generosity, my convictions, etc?
- How am I more giving in to the Ways of Christ? How am I more giving in to Mercy, Justice, and Humility?

When you give up something, replace it with something more beautiful, more just, more compassionate, more honoring to Christ. Removing weeds without planting something...only produces more weeds later.

Monday, March 7, 2022

"We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, LORD, even as we put our hope in you." Psalm 33:20-22

*I love this hymn!
Debbie
Beman*

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Natalie Steeth, 1985

Unison

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise; but - ter - flies will soon be free!
there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

I found out that this is also one of Esther Duke's favorites.

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

"For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope." Galatians 5:5

Sharing Blessings

Submitted by Judy Goodenow

I began visiting a young woman who lived in a poor rundown part of town. She had been ill and in bed for days, and she did not have anyone to take care of her. Every time I visited she asked me to sing a song and read the Bible to her.

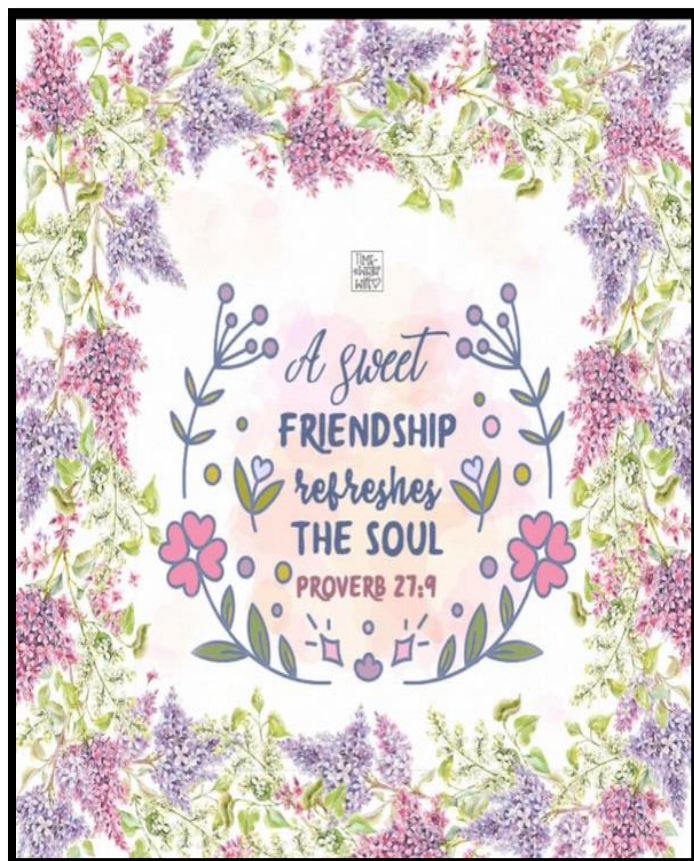
On each visit, she listened quietly and never spoke. Then one day she whispered, to me, "Thank you for treating me like a human being. I can feel the love of Jesus this week. I trust that Jesus is my Savior, and I want to receive him before I go home to my eternal home in heaven."

Not long after praying, she went home to her Father in heaven. The apostle Paul wrote that he wanted to make himself a slave to everyone even though he was free. He did this for the sake of the gospel and so shared in its blessings. Jesus wants us to use our own great potential as a blessing for many people, not for our own sake but for the sake of the gospel.

(Written by Linda Chandra from the Upper Room on February 9, 2022)

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." Romans 12:12



Thursday, March 10, 2022

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33

'In the Garden'

In 1912, Austin Miles, an amateur photographer (and pharmacist-turned church music director) was waiting on film to develop in the darkroom when he saw a deeply moving spiritual vision. He saw Mary Magdalene visiting the empty tomb, leave, and walk into the garden where she met our Lord! It was after this vision he wrote, "In the Garden"

I come to the garden alone, While the dew is still on the roses
And the voice I hear falling on my ear, The Son of God discloses.

Refrain

**And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.**

He speaks, and the sound of His voice,
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing.

Refrain

I'd stay in the garden with Him
Though the night around me be falling,
But He bids me go; through the voice of woe
His voice to me is calling.

Refrain

Friday, March 11, 2022

"Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!" Isaiah 30:18



Saturday, March 12, 2022

"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" Mark 12:15

Different Versions of The Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Tammy Lathan

1599 Geneva Bible

After this manner therefore pray ye,
'Our father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done even in earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.'

Complete Jewish Bible

You, therefore, pray like this:
'Our Father in heaven! May your Name be kept holy.
May your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us the food we need today.
Forgive us what we have done wrong, as we too have forgiven
those who have wronged us.
And do not lead us into hard testing,
but keep us safe from the Evil One.
For kingship, power and glory are yours forever. Amen.'

New International Version

This, then, is how you should pray:

‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’

Christian Standard Bible

Therefore, you should pray like this:

‘Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’

New King James Version

In this manner, therefore, pray:

‘Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the
power and the glory forever. Amen.’

Did you know that The Lord’s Prayer appears in two different Gospels in the Bible? Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4.

Sunday, March 13, 2022

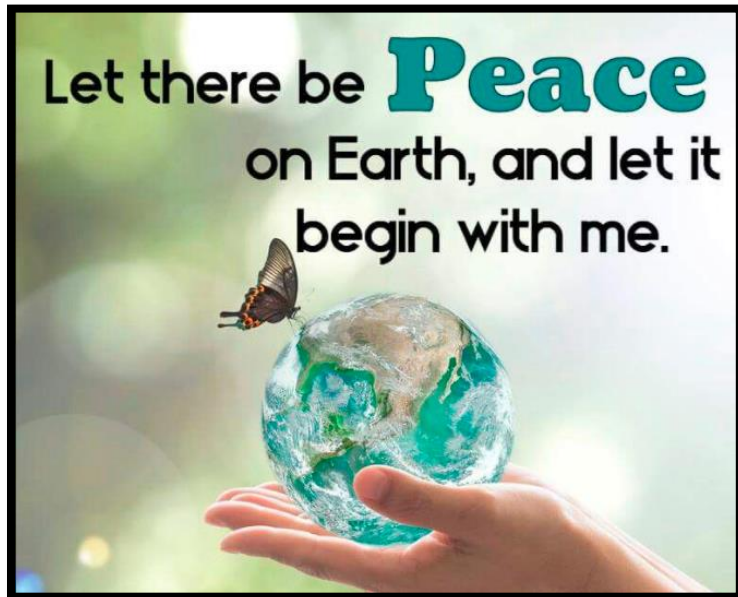
“I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.” Luke 15:7 NIV

Lenten Ideas Janet Schaeffler

1. As you read/hear the Gospel for the First Sunday of Lent, and reflect on the Spirit driving Jesus to the desert, what is the Spirit driving you, to do this Lent?
2. Give something away. A smile, a compliment or a helping hand, sometimes, is more appreciated, and harder to give.
3. Forgive a long-held grudge. Forgiving someone else will bless you as much – if not more – than the person you forgive.
4. Pray for strangers. Cultivate the habit of praying for people in line at the grocery store, for ambulance passengers, for people in the news, for those beyond our borders, etc.
5. Thank people who deserve it. Look for opportunities to thank others: maintenance people, garbage collectors, clerks.
7. Meet a neighbor. If you don’t know your neighbors (or haven’t talked to them for a long time), take them a plate of cookies.
8. Send an anonymous gift to someone you know who needs a pick me-up.
9. Choose one of the Gospels. Read through it, writing down all of the questions that Jesus asks. Which of these questions is Jesus particularly asking you at this time in your life?
10. Enjoy yourself in a way that costs nothing. What can you – and your family do to enjoy each other and life – that requires no money?

Monday, March 14, 2022

"Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long." Psalm 25:4-5



Tuesday, March 15, 2022

"For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from Him."
Psalm 62:5

The Power In The Resurrection

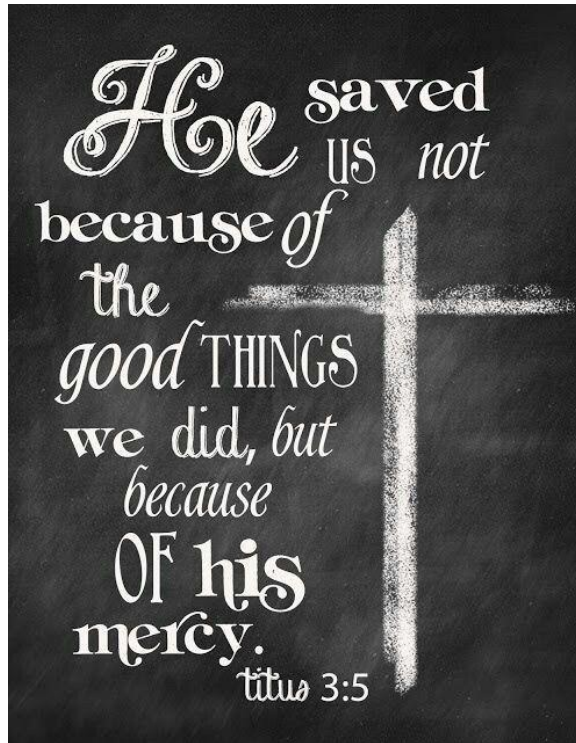
Let every heart be filled with joy,
A joy of thankfulness to our Savior and King!
He is victorious over sin and death.
He conquered death to give us a new life.

A life blossoms through His unending love.
It is for a cause and without condition
The love that brings healing and reconciliation,
A pure love that creates in us real peace.

Peace that springs from his sacred heart,
A heart that bleeds for our affliction.
It is full of mercy and compassion,
A heart wounded for our sins and vainglory.

Rejoice! Jesus is truly risen from the dead
For us to live once again,
To live without blemish of pride,
And live a life unselfishly for others in need.

Wednesday, March 16, 2022



Thursday, March 17, 2022

"But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me." Micah 7:7

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Isaac Watts wrote this hymn in 1707, originally a meditation on the cross of Christ—as a means of preparation for the Lord's Supper. Having reflected on the cross, he can only marvel at God's wondrous grace and pledge his life to God's service.

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Friday, March 18, 2022

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time." 1 Peter 5:6



Saturday, March 19, 2022

"I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead." Philippians 3:10-11

The Difference Between Heaven and Hell

Reprinted from the Castile UCC United Flyer in 1983

"The A holy man was having a conversation with the Lord one day and said, "Lord, I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like." The Lord led the holy man to two doors. He opened one of the doors and the Holy man looked in. In the middle of the room was a large round table. In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew, which smelled delicious and made the holy man's mouth water. The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles that were strapped to their arms and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful. But because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths. The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering. The Lord said, "You have seen Hell."

They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one. There was the large round table with the large pot of stew which made the holy man's mouth water. The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking. The holy Man said, "I don't understand." "It is simple," said the Lord. "It requires but one skill. You see, they have learned to feed each other, while the greedy think only of themselves."

"Remember this, when Jesus died on the cross, he was thinking of you."

Sunday, March 20, 2022

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33



Monday, March 21, 2022

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matt. 6:21

'Love Without End, Amen'

George Strait

Submitted by Marlene Loomis

I got sent home from school one day, With a shiner on my eye
Fightin' was against the rules and it didn't matter why
When Dad got home I told that story just like I'd rehearsed
Then stood there on those tremblin' knees
And waited for the worst.

**He said, "Let me tell you a secret about a father's love
A secret that my daddy said was just between us"
He said, "Daddies don't just love their children
Every now and then, It's a love without end, amen
It's a love without end, Amen.**

When I became a father in the spring of '81,
There was no doubt that stubborn boy
Was just like my father's son
And when I thought my patience
Had been tested to the end
I took my daddy's secret and passed it on to him.

**I said, "Let me tell you a secret about a father's love
A secret that my daddy said was just between us"
I said, "Daddies don't just love their children**

**Every now and then It's a love without end, amen
It's a love without end, amen"**

Last night I dreamed I died and stood outside those pearly gates
When suddenly I realized there must be some mistake
If they know half the things I've done,
They'll never let me in, Then somewhere from the other side I
heard those words again

**They said, "Let me tell you a secret about a father's love
A secret that my daddy said was just between us
You see, daddies don't just love their children
Every now and then It's a love without end, amen
It's a love without end, amen"**

This song always reminds me of the hope and love Christ has for each of us. Christ doesn't love us every now and then, He loves us all the time!

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

Why Lent Should Bring You Joy

by Melissa Hatfield

Submitted by Jen Griesbaum

Lent is my favorite liturgical season.

Some people think it is strange to like Lent. It seems too somber and penitential to be liked – similar to a Facebook status that shares sad or painful news yet has the potential to lead to something good. Is it appropriate to “like” such a status? Is it appropriate to like Lent – a season where we are reminded of our mortality with a holy smudge and engaged in self-reflection on the pervasiveness of our sin and our humanity? I believe it is if we see the potential for good. As Sara Parsons says, “Perhaps Lent is a season of joy when we look at ourselves, not so we may criticize ourselves more harshly but so we can identify the obstructions that keep us from God.”

In this season, we are invited to ask reflective questions. What prevents us from being fully devoted followers of Jesus? How do we avoid God and why? What is standing in the way of us surrendering fully to the leadership of the Lord? Lent provides a regular rhythm for us to seek out these hindrances and, with God's grace and strength, to cut these hindrances out of our lives and to fully fling ourselves into God's grace and mercy.

I'm going to share a potential spoiler from the movie “Gravity” now. If you haven't seen it, my apologies.

Ryan Stone (Sandra Bullock) escapes from a fiery space capsule into a sea of water and attempts to swim to the surface.

She soon realizes that the weight and bulk of her spacesuit is weighing her down and the only way to live is to throw off that which is burdening her – to cut it out of her life. Once she is free, she is able to surface, breathe and live.

Lent forces us to stop and to realize all the bulk that we've added to our lives. To stop and become aware that perhaps we are

sinking, weighed down by obstructions that are keeping us from being the free people that God longs for us to be.

Lent calls us to throw off that which so easily entangles and surface to a new life, a free life (see Hebrews 12:1). We are released to really live, as we no longer pretend to be anything other than what we are – flawed human beings.

This freedom from pretending is a relief to sufferers drowning from guilt, like me. It brings joy and that's why I love Lent.

In her Ash Wednesday homily this year, Nadia Bolz Weber said that admitting the truth about our mortality is “like the moment when you stop having to spiritually hold your stomach in.”

Lent invites us to stop pretending or “sucking in” our spiritual stomach. We are encouraged to be real – admitting that we are a mess and in need of a Savior; that we are mortal, but that death is not final.

Lent is not the time for self-inflicted agony or self-improving therapy. It isn't spiritual Pinterest where we pin a challenge or behavior modification in order to create a more perfect self.

As Thomas Hopko explains in his book “The Lenten Spring,” it is “the great and saving forty days” set apart for complete and total dedication to the things of God.

It is the “tithe of the year,” which tells us that all times and seasons belong to the Lord, who has created and redeemed the world.

Let's remember who the hero is at the end of 40 days – not us for having achieved victory over the allure of heavenly sugar or the appealing seduction of social media.

Rather, the hero is Jesus, the one we pursue instead of these obstacles.

May this season remind us of our mortality; may our repentance be the occasion for a reprieve from neurosis and anxiety; and may we journey with patience and joy toward the eternal hope of Christ's resurrection.

Remember that we came from dust and will return to dust.

Remember that we came from God and will return to God.

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:31

Batteries

Submitted by Tammy Lathan

When a flashlight grows dim or stops working,
do you throw it away? Of course not.

You change the batteries.

When a person messes up or finds themselves in a dark place,
do you cast them aside? Of course not!

You help them change their batteries.

- Some need AA – attention and affection;
- some need AAA - affection, attention and acceptance;
- Some need C – compassion;
- Or D – direction

And if they still don't shine, simply sit with them quietly and shine your light.

Thursday, March 24, 2022

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:6-7

Family Ideas for Lent:

Motivate your children to do good deeds and make sacrifices.

Set up an offering jar— all you need is a jar or piggy bank of some kind. Spare change goes into the jar for the length of Lent, and then it is donated.

Read the Bible together as a family daily. This can be done in the morning at breakfast, and doesn't have to take long. You can just read a paragraph each day.

Decide 1 day of the week during Lent to go "screen free" as a family.

During Holy Week, read the story of Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, and the crucifixion from the Bible.

Friday, March 25, 2022

"I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in His word I put my hope." Psalm 130:5

'Washed by the Blood of the Lamb'

Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power?

Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Are you fully trusting in His grace this hour?

Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

[Refrain] Are you washed in the blood,

In the soul cleansing blood of the Lamb?

Are your garments spotless? Are they white as snow?

Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Are you walking daily by the Savior's side?

Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Do you rest each moment in the Crucified?

Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Refrain

When the Bridegroom cometh will your robes be white?

Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Will your soul be ready for the mansions bright,

And be washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Refrain

Lay aside the garments that are stained with sin,

And be washed in the blood of the Lamb;

There's a fountain flowing for the soul unclean,

O be washed in the blood of the Lamb!

Saturday, March 26, 2022

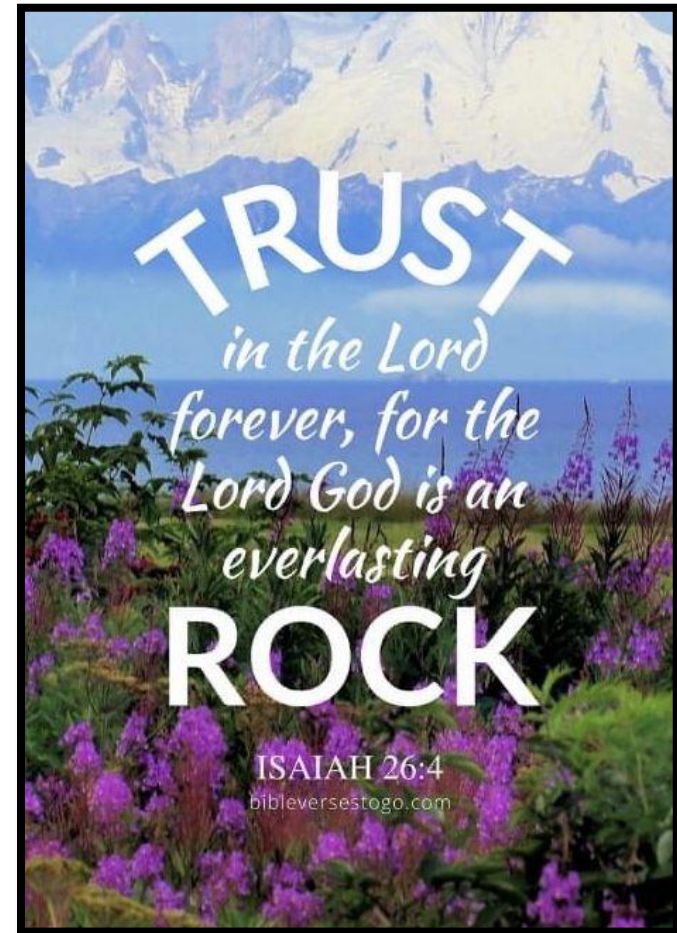
"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

One Pair of Hands

At Easter time, the story of Jesus is so special, especially when put to song in such a beautiful way by Carroll Roberson below.

One pair of hands formed the mountains
One pair of hands formed the sea
One pair of hands made the sun and the moon
Every bird, every flower, every tree
One pair of hands formed the valleys
The ocean, the rivers and the sand
Those hands are so strong, so when life goes wrong
Put your faith in the one pair of hands
One pair of hands, healed the sick
One pair of hands raised the dead
One pair of hands calmed the ragging storm
And thousands of people were fed
One pair of hands said I love you
And those hands were nailed to a tree
Those hands are so strong, so when life goes wrong
Put your faith into one pair of hands
Those hands are so strong, so when life goes wrong
Put your faith into one pair of hands
Put your faith into one pair of hands
One pair of hands suffering with Jesus.

Sunday, March, 27 2022



Monday, March 28, 2022

*"But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD, I wait for God my Savior;
my God will hear me." Micah 7:7*

The Old Rugged Cross

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross
The emblem of suffering and shame
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross (rugged cross)
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true
It's shame and reproach gladly bear
Then he'll call me some day to my home far away
Where his glory forever I'll share

And I'll cherish the old rugged cross (rugged cross)
Till my trophies at last I lay down
And I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown

Tuesday, March 29, 2022



Wednesday, March 30, 2022

“Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him.” Psalm 62:5

Submitted by Bonnie Miller

Recently Pastor Tammy spoke on listening to God. The message really hit home for me, and this is the story why.

I have been most fortunate to have maintained a friendship since the first grade. My friend Nancy and I were best friends all through grammar school, high school and college for her and nursing school for me. She stood up at my wedding and I at hers. Our daughters passed down clothing and had play dates. Yes there were times when there were gaps in that friendship and it is one of these gaps that this story is about.

I had heard that Nancy was happily remarried but I had not met her husband. This is one of those gaps that I spoke of.

It is late fall and then Christmas when I realize that she creeps frequently into my mind. Mmmm I think, but being busy I don't realize the importance of that creeping in.

Fast forward to late winter early spring and Tom introduces a new bell choir anthem to us. Of course, that begs the question, where are you going with this Bonnie? Well as we begin practicing this music I am drawn to the fact that this music called Finlandia is the music to which Nancy and I sang our first duet together. We were probably in about 7th grade and attended Chili Center Baptist Church. After several weeks of rehearsing this piece I had a conversation with God and I finally said “ Okay God I get it, I will call Nancy” and I did. It was with an emotionally strained voice

Nancy told me that in September her husband had passed away and that she was not doing well. You can imagine my

sadness at this news. I invited her to come for a visit to my new house and spend some time with me. She was hesitant, but I said why don't you come and then see how you feel about staying. Well she came and spent 3 nights with me. It was a healing time and a reconnecting time for us. As she was leaving we hugged each other and with tears on our faces realized what a blessing her visit was for both of us.

BUT, here is the if only, if only I had listened sooner. That voice that I kept hearing was God saying I was needed. It was God trying to get my attention that I was needed and I took my sweet time answering that call.

Since this happened 15 yrs. ago I have learned not just to listen for that voice but to act upon it when I hear it. Oh, and yes I have needed to be hit with a 2x4 occasionally!

Thursday, March 31, 2022

"I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope." Psalm 130:5

Reflections

There is a winter in all of our lives, a chill and darkness that makes us yearn for days that have gone or put our hope in days yet to be.

Father God, you created seasons for a purpose.

Spring is full of expectation, buds breaking, frosts abating and an awakening of creation before the first days of summer.

Now the sun gives warmth and comfort to our lives reviving aching joints, bringing color, new life and crops to fruiting.

Autumn gives nature space to lean back, relax and enjoy the fruits of its labor. Mellow colors in sky and landscape as the earth prepares to rest.

Then winter, cold and bare as nature takes stock. Rests, unwinds, sleeps until the time is right. An endless cycle and yet a perfect model.

We need a winter in our lives. A time of rest, a time to stand still. A time to reacquaint ourselves with the faith in which we live. It is only then that we can draw strength from the one in whom we are rooted. Take time to grow and rise through the darkness into the warm glow of your springtime to blossom and flourish and bring color and vitality to this world... Your garden. Thank you, Father, for the seasons of our lives. Amen

Elizabeth Christie, PRCLI.org

Friday, April 1, 2022

"Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Psalm 91

'On Eagles Wings'

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in His shadow for life,

Say to the Lord:

"My refuge, My rock in whom I trust!"

**Chorus: And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His hand.**

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
And famine will bring you no fear:
Under His wings your refuge,
His faithfulness your shield.

Chorus:

You need not fear the terror of the night,
Nor the arrow that flies by day;
Though thousands fall about you,
Near you it shall not come.

Chorus:

For to His angels He's given a command
To guard you in all of your ways;
Upon their hands they will bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Chorus:

End: And hold you, hold you in the palm of His hand.

Saturday, April 2, 2022

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10

'Because He Lives'

This song, written by Gloria Gaither in one of her darkest moments.

God sent His son, they called Him Jesus;
He came to love, heal and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!
**Chorus: Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living, Just because He lives!**
How sweet to hold a newborn baby,
And feel the pride and joy he gives;
But greater still the calm assurance:
This child can face uncertain days because He Lives!

Chorus

And then one day, I'll cross the river,
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
And then, as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives!

Chorus

Sunday, April 3, 2022

*"And the Lord will strike Egypt, striking and healing, and they will return to the Lord, and he will listen to their pleas for mercy and heal them."
Isaiah 19:22*

The Shepherd Breaks the Lamb's Leg and This is Grace?

by Andrew Groves
Submitted by Jen Griesbaum

This analogy is set in an ancient Middle Eastern context of shepherding and does not reflect contemporary shepherding practices. I cannot provide any evidence of this being an actual historical shepherding practice.

However, as an illustration of how a loving sovereign God may choose to ordain suffering into the lives of his people I think it is helpful. Perhaps it offers one reason why one may rejoice in suffering.

A sheep who will not follow the shepherd's voice is in grave danger. Wandering will lead to death whether from predators, stumbling over a cliff or exposure to the elements. A shepherd who is gracious might break a sheep's leg to save the sheep's life.

The shepherd will then bind up the broken leg, carry the sheep upon his shoulders and hand feed the sheep. In this way the sheep learns dependence and trust in the shepherd and learns to respond to his voice.

Some might regard the shepherd's actions in bringing suffering into the sheep's life as cruel. But the shepherd's action in fact saves the sheep.

The reality is that the shepherd is good. The shepherd brings suffering into the sheep's life *in order to preserve the sheep's life*.

This is the same shepherd who gives his life for the sheep.

Monday, April 4, 2022

"My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?" Psalm 42:2

Parable of the Lost Sheep Meaning

The Bible makes clear that Jesus is our shepherd and we are His sheep. When one of the sheep wanders away from his shepherd, it represents a person who wanders from Jesus by choosing to lead an evil or sinful life according to worldly pleasures.

Jesus doesn't stop that person from wandering because God loves us so much that He gave us free will to make our own choices in life. But He never gives up on the person who walks away from Him, no matter how many others He has by His side. He still loves and misses and wants the lost one to return.

Having that one person return back home to Jesus is cause for great celebration. Jesus told the Parable of the Lost Sheep over two thousand years ago, but the message is as relevant to us today as it was when He spoke the words.

His message is clear: God's Will is to bring all sinners home to Him. That includes you. He loves you. You matter to Him. Every last person matters to Him. If you are the lost one, you can be sure He's searching for you and never giving up. Just say the word. He's waiting with open arms to scoop you up and carry you home.

The moment you choose to turn to Him, He'll open His arms and celebrate your return. His greatest joy. God never gives up on you. No matter how long you stray or what you've done, God has mercy on those who ask for forgiveness. His mercy endures forever. You are His child. All you have to do is come home to Him. Then Jesus will say, "Your sins are forgiven."

The Parable of the Lost Sheep has sparked the terms 'the 99' and 'leave the 99'. The phrases became popular when they were used in a Christian song called Reckless Love. In the parable, the shepherd began with 100 sheep and 1 walked away. 'The 99' refers to the 99 sheep who stayed with the shepherd –

representing the Christians who believe and are walking in their faith.

The sheep that left represents someone who's turned from God and walking in the ways of the world instead. 'Leave the 99' refers to God leaving his faithful flock (the 99 remaining) to pursue the one lost sheep who's walked away from Him. He knows that the 99 He left behind are safe until His return. Once you know the significance of 'the 99' and 'leave the 99', the song Reckless Love by Cory Asbury and Bethel Music will have a very profound message for you.

"Reckless Love" by Cory Asbury

Before I spoke a word, You were singing over me
You have been so, so good to me
Before I took a breath, You breathed Your life in me
You have been so, so kind to me

[Chorus]

*O, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God
O, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it, and I don't deserve it, still, You give Yourself
away
O, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God, yeah*

When I was Your foe, still Your love fought for me
You have been so, so good to me
When I felt no worth, You paid it all for me
You have been so, so kind to me

[Chorus]

[End] There's no shadow You won't light up
Mountain you won't climb up
Coming after me
There's no wall You won't kick down
Lie you won't tear down. Coming after me.

Tuesday, April 5, 2022



Wednesday, April 6, 2022

"I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead." Philipians 3:10-11

THE PRAYING HANDS

The "Praying Hands" are much, much more
than just a work of art,
They are the "soul's creations" of a deeply thankful heart
They are a Priceless Masterpiece that love alone could paint,
And they reveal the selflessness of an unheralded saint
These hands so scarred and toilworn, tell the story of a man
Who sacrificed his talent in accordance with God's Plan
For in God's Plan are many things man cannot understand,
But we must trust God's judgement and be guided by His Hand –
Sometime He asks us to give up our dreams of happiness,
Sometimes we must forego our hopes of fortune and success –
Not all of us can triumph or rise to heights of fame,
And many times What Should Be Ours, goes to another Name –
But he who makes a sacrifice, so another may succeed,
Is indeed a true disciple of our blessed Savior's creed –
For when we "give ourselves away" in sacrifice and love,
We are "laying up rich treasures" in God's kingdom up above –
And hidden in gnarled, toilworn hands in the truest Art of Living,
Achieved alone by those who've learned the "Victory of Giving"
For any sacrifice on earth, made in the dear Lord's name
Assures the giver of a place in Heaven's Hall of Fame
And who can say with certainty Where the Greatest Talent Lies,
Or Who Will Be the Greatest In Our Heavenly Father's Eyes!

Helen Steiner Rice

Thursday, April 7, 2022

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:21

Easter Symbols

Cross: The cross is a symbol of the crucifixion, as opposed to the resurrection. However, at the Council of Nicea in A.D. 325, Constantine decreed that the cross was the official symbol of Christianity. The cross is not only a symbol of Easter, but it is more widely used as a year-round symbol of their faith.

Easter Egg: The Easter Egg was centuries old when Easter was first celebrated by Christians. From the earliest times, the Easter was a symbol of rebirth in most cultures. Eggs were often wrapped in gold leaf or, if you were a peasant colored brightly by boiling them with the leaves of petals of certain flowers.

Easter Lily: a Lily is the sign of life coming from death as a Lily blooms comes from a seemingly lifeless bulb. The Lily looks like a trumpet sounding the good news of the resurrection.

Butterfly: a butterfly represents the resurrection, new life, the glorified changed, resurrected body.

Lamb: the lamb is a symbol of Easter because Jesus is often referred to in the Bible as the Lamb of God the lamb was a sacrifice made during the Jewish Passover.

Sunrise: the women came to the tomb at sunrise and found that the tomb was empty and that Jesus had risen. Sunrise can also symbolize resurrection as a new dawn in our own lives.

Friday, April 8, 2022

“Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.” Psalm 27:14

“One Solitary Life”

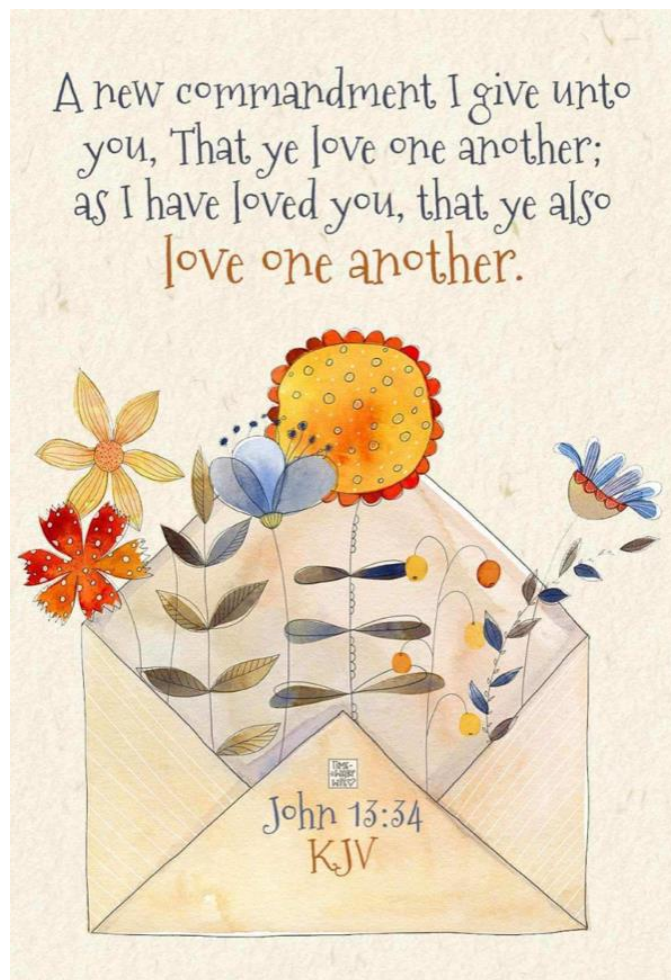
Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty, and then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never set foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He had no credentials but Himself.

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth while He was dying -- and that was His coat. When He was dead, He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Centuries have come and gone and today He is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as that *One Solitary Life*.

by James A. Francis

Saturday, April 9, 2022



PALM SUNDAY, April 10, 2022

"Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." Zechariah 9:9

Pine Tree Crosses

Last April, on a Sunday, we took one of our "nowhere" drives. My husband was quietly driving a back road. I was occupied in the front passenger seat watching the scenery.

I noticed out of the corner of my eye that my husband was straining to look out my window. This startled me, since his eyes should be on the road in front of him. I asked him what he was looking at out the windows, and he quietly replied, "Nothing." His eyes went back to the road in front of him.

After a few minutes, I looked over at my husband and noticed a tear running down his cheek. I asked him what was wrong. This time he told me, "I was just thinking about Pop and a story he had once told me." Of course, because it had to do with his Pop I wanted to know the story, so I asked him to share it with me.

He said, "When I was about 8 years old, Pop and I were out fishing and that's when he told me that the Pine trees know when it is Easter." I had no idea what he meant by that, so I pressed him for more information.

He continued on... "The pine trees start their new growth in the weeks before Easter — if you look at the tops of the pine trees two weeks before, you will see the yellow shoots. As the days get closer to Easter Sunday, the tallest shoot will branch off and form a cross. By the time Easter Sunday comes around, you will see

that most of the pine trees will have small yellow crosses on all of the tallest shoots.”

I turned to look out the window and I couldn’t believe my eyes. It was a week before Easter, and you could see all of the trees with the tall yellow shoots stretching to Heaven. The tallest ones shone in the sunlight like rows of tiny golden crosses.

May you find your Easter season filled with beautiful golden crosses and the love of the Man who made this holiday happen. He is Risen, Christ the Lord.



Monday, April 11, 2022

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” Romans 12:12

“Jesus Loves Me”

Submitted by Marlene Loomis

Did you know ALL the verses to Jesus Loves Me?? I have sung this song to my two youngest granddaughters since the day they were born. As with all babies, the best way to introduce Jesus to little ones, in my opinion, is to sing to them. I sang it to my daughters when they were babies, and so the tradition continues, But until I was doing research for this Lenten booklet, I was unaware of these verses.

Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.

Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

What I always thought was the second verse:

Jesus Loves me when I’m good, When I do the things, I should
Jesus loves me when I’m bad, Though, it makes him very sad.

But it turns out that is not even one of the standard verses.

Jesus loves me! This I know, As He loved so long ago,
Taking children on His knee, Saying, “Let them come to Me.”

Jesus loves me still today, Walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give, Light and love to all who live.

Jesus loves me! He who died, Heaven’s gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin, Let His little child come in.

Jesus loves me! He will stay, Close beside me all the way;
Thou hast bled and died for me, I will ever live for Thee.



Artwork by Kelcy Brandes

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

"For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope." Galatians 5:5

"The Three Trees" Anonymous

Once upon a mountain top, three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up. The first little tree looked up at the stars and said: "I want to hold treasure. I want to be covered with gold and filled with precious stones. I'll be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!" The second little tree looked out at the small stream trickling by on its way to the ocean. "I want to be traveling mighty waters and carrying powerful kings. I'll be the strongest ship in the world!" The third little tree looked down into the valley below where busy men and women worked in a busy town. "I don't want to leave the mountain top at all. I want to grow so tall that when people stop to look at me, they'll raise their eyes to heaven and think of God. I will be the tallest tree in the world."

Years passed and the little trees grew tall. One day three woodcutters climbed the mountain. The first woodcutter looked at the first tree and said, "This tree is beautiful. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining ax, the first tree fell. "Now I shall be made into a beautiful chest,

I shall hold wonderful treasure!" the first tree said. The second woodcutter looked at the second tree and said, "This tree is strong. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining ax, the second tree fell.

"Now I shall sail mighty waters!" thought the second tree. "I shall be a strong ship for mighty kings!" The third tree felt her heart sink when the last woodcutter looked her way. She stood straight and tall and pointed bravely to heaven. But the woodcutter never even looked up. "Any kind of tree will do for me." He muttered. With a swoop of his shining ax the third tree fell.

"I want to hold treasure."

The first tree rejoiced when the woodcutter brought her to a carpenter's shop. But the carpenter fashioned the tree into a feed box for animals. The once beautiful tree was not covered with gold or filled with treasure. She was coated with sawdust and filled with hay for

hungry farm animals. The second tree smiled when the woodcutter took her to a shipyard, but no mighty ship was made that day. Instead, the once strong tree was hammered and sawed into a simple fishing boat. She was too small and too weak to sail to an ocean, or even a river. Instead she was taken to a little lake. The third tree was confused when the woodcutter cut her into strong beams and left her in a lumberyard. "What happened?" The once tall tree wondered. "All I ever wanted was to stay on the mountain top and point to God..."

"I want to be a ship that carries a powerful king."

Many, many days and nights passed. The three trees nearly forgot their dreams. But one night, golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her newborn baby in the feed box. "I wish I could make a cradle for him," her husband whispered. The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as the starlight shone on the smooth and the sturdy wood. "This manger is beautiful," she said. And suddenly the first tree knew he was holding the greatest treasure in the world.

One evening a tired traveler and his friends crowded into the old fishing boat. The traveler fell asleep as the second tree quietly sailed out into the lake. Soon a thundering and thrashing storm arose. The little tree shuddered. She knew she did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through the wind and the rain. The tired man awakened. He stood up, stretched out his hand and said, "Peace." The storm stopped as quickly as it had begun. And suddenly the second tree knew he was carrying the King of heaven and earth.

"I want to grow tall and point to God."

One Friday morning, the third tree was startled when her beams were yanked from the forgotten woodpile. She flinched as she was carried through an angry jeering crowd. She shuddered when soldiers nailed a man's hands to her. As she was lifted up on the mountain top she felt ugly and harsh and cruel. But on Sunday morning, when the sun rose and the earth trembled with joy beneath her, the third tree knew that God's love had changed everything. Now every time people saw her she could point them to God, and that was what she wanted all along.

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33

A Trampled Rose

Just over two years ago, while in church one Sunday morning, I was introduced to the song, *Above All* written by Lenny LeBlanc and Paul Baloche. I cried when we sang the chorus. In fact, for years, I could not sing the song without being deeply moved. I still can't.

***Crucified laid behind a stone
You lived to die, rejected and alone
Like a rose trampled on the ground
You took the fall and thought of me
Above all!***

Just to imagine Christ, my comforter and best friend, crucified, rejected and alone, touched me deeply. I myself was going through a time of rejection and felt very alone, so the words of the song touched me deeply – realizing that Christ must have had some of the same feelings. The sentence, "Like a rose, trampled on the ground", gave me such a clear word picture of what Jesus went through for us. One of the names of Jesus is "Rose of Sharon."

When a rose is crushed or trampled, it offers a very sweet fragrance. Jesus is a sweet-smelling fragrance. The Apostle Paul tells us that we are a sweet-smelling fragrance to those who believe.

I wondered what kind of fragrance we as Christians offer when we have been rejected and feel alone – when we have been crushed and trampled on. Mine is not always sweet. How about you?
Originally written by Katherine Kehler

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 14, 2022

“This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.” Luke 22:23

A Faith Walk Toward Maundy Thursday

Submitted by Bonnie Miller

My faith walk began when I was a young child being brought up in the Chili Center Baptist Church. Of course, as a child I spoke as a child and acted as a child. I had no idea of the path I would walk or how many detours that path would take.

Fast forward to the 1960's and as an active member of my church I am interested in this new service that has been added to the celebration of Holy Week. It is called Maundy Thursday and little do I know the path God has in store for me where this service is concerned.

At this point in my life, I am a busy young mother dealing with multiple stresses. If you asked me, was I a Christian my answer would have been yes, but I am not sure how I might have proven that.

As I think back to those first Maundy services I realize that they were the beginning of my finding a deeper and more meaningful faith. And so, when life finds me moving to Perry and attending the Castile United Church of Christ, I find myself taking baby steps as I become involved in this new church of mine.

I met with Rev Embling to discuss my new position as Carol Choir director and in that conversation, I also shared with him the format for the Maundy Thursday service. And he was immediately interested. The next steps are not clear in my memory, but I know that as we celebrate our first Maundy Thursday service I once

again find myself so deeply moved and quickly involved in being a part of this service. The message that is given and interpreted by each one of us will become personal, meaningful, and unforgettable. And yes, this service has evolved as different pastors have put their own interpretation in place.

Today, as the service has expanded and become more of a spiritual experience, I encouraged you all to attend and see for yourself where you will be changed, challenged, or called by God. I do not believe anyone will leave this service without having been moved by the simplicity, pureness and spirit driven words of the evening.

Personally, for me, it is a time of recommitment to my God; a time for me to center my life on my God and renew my faith in Him. It is a time to fall in love all over again with the message of Christ and His never-failing love.

Friday, April 15, 2022

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

The Magic of Three Days

By Patt Barnes

It was a beautiful spring day, and a sense of peace stayed with me as I left the cathedral on Easter Monday morning. I paused for a moment on top of the steps leading to the avenue, now crowded with people rushing to their jobs. Sitting in her usual place, inside a small archway, was the old flower lady. At her feet, corsages and boutonnieres were parading on top of a spread-open newspaper. The flower lady was smiling, her wrinkled old face alive with some inner joy. I started down the stairs – then on an impulse, I turned and picked out a flower.

As I put it in my lapel, I said, "You look happy."

"Why not?" she answered. "Everything is good." She was dressed so shabbily and seemed so very old that her reply startled me.

"You've been sitting here for many years now, haven't you? And always smiling. You wear your troubles well."

"You can't reach my age and not have troubles," she replied, "only it's like Jesus and Good Friday..." She paused for a moment.

"Yes?" I prompted

"Well, when Jesus was crucified on Good Friday, that was the worst day for the whole world. When I get troubles I remember that, and then I think of what happened only three days later—Easter—our Lord arose from the dead. So when things go wrong, I've learned to wait three days...and somehow everything gets much better." She smiled good-bye, but her words still follow me whenever I think I have troubles. "Give God a chance to help. Wait three days."

Saturday, April 16, 2022

"Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." Joel 2:12

Were You There?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Were you there when He rose up from the grave?

Were you there when He rose up from the grave?

Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble

Were you there when He rose up from the grave?

Were you there when He rose up from the grave?

EASTER SUNDAY, April 17, 2022

“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here;

HE IS RISEN!” Luke 24: 1- 24

‘In Christ Alone’

‘In Christ Alone’ was written by Stuart Townsend and Keith Getty. Townsend explains, “The song came about in an unusual way. Keith and I met in the autumn of 2000 at a worship event, and we resolved to try to work together on some songs.

A few weeks later Keith sent some melody ideas, and the first one on the CD was a magnificent, haunting melody that I loved, and immediately started writing down some lyrical ideas on what I felt should be a timeless theme commensurate with the melody.

So the theme of the life, death, resurrection of Christ, and the implications of that for us just began to tumble out, and when we got together later on to fine-tune it, we felt we had encapsulated what we wanted to say.

**“In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm...”**

