

# SUNDAY WORSHIP THEMES & SCRIPTURE FOR MARCH

This month we focus on four wonderful stories from the Gospel of John. While the other gospels tend to have a minimalist approach to telling a story, John's Gospel tells stories that unwind in complex ways, with lots of symbolism. Jesus seems to have a very clear view of his role in salvation and often appears more "divine" in John's Gospel than in the other gospel accounts. Jesus' powerfully moving encounters with Nicodemus, the woman at the well, the blind man, and finally with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus are all themes that will help make our worship meaningful during this month in Lent.

## **March 5: Genesis 12:1-4a   John 3:1-17**

*Second Sunday in Lent*

*Through the Night, Communion Sunday, 9:00 Fellowship*

Nicodemus' faith questions take him into the deep of night, and we find that we are all challenged to figure out what really matters.

## **March 12: Exodus 17:1-7   John 4:5-42**

*Third Sunday in Lent*

*With Thirst for New Life, Church School, Chancel Choir, & 11:00 Fellowship*

As we listen to the conversation between Jesus and a Samaritan woman, we find the courage to use our voice to say what matters most.

## **March 19: 1 Samuel 16:1-13   John 9:1-41**

*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

*After Vision Shifts, Handbell Choir, Family Service, Children's Choir, One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, 11:00 Fellowship*

Perspectives shift as sight is restored with mud and spit, and we ponder how ordinary elements of life point to the extraordinary.

## **March 26: Ezekiel 37:1-14   John 11:1-45**

*Fifth Sunday in Lent, Out of the Depths*

In wildernesses of grief, we gasp as Lazarus emerges alive and is unbound by the community and explore the concept of hope.



## LOOKING AHEAD: HOLY WEEK APRIL 2 - 9

### **April 2, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Palm/Passion Sunday and Communion Sunday**

The worship begins with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem as we pass out palms for everyone that we might celebrate like the crowds calling out, "Hosanna!" We also begin to develop some of the themes of Holy Week as Jesus speaks powerful words in response to those who would end his ministry to the poor and outcast. Our Fellowship Team will serve the delicious cinnamon rolls once again, after both services.

### **April 6, 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service of Tenebrae**

The word "Maundy" coming from Jesus' "command" to love one another given at the last supper and the word "Tenebrae" meaning "shadows". This night we share communion in remembrance of the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples and experience the growing shadows of the worldly powers gathering to end Jesus' life and ministry. A powerful worship experience featuring a choral quartet, communion, and readings telling the story of the disciples' betrayal and abandonment.

### **April 7, 7:00 p.m. Good Friday**

On Good Friday we hear the story of Jesus' crucifixion, through music, scripture, and proclamation. We recall Jesus' suffering and his last words from the cross. An emotionally moving service of worship in which we contemplate Jesus' sacrifice for his disciples and the whole world. Experiencing the services on Thursday and Friday make the joy that is to come on Easter all the more sweet and meaningful.

### **April 9, Easter Sunday Morning Services at 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 with Chancel Choir & Brass Quartet**

The 6:00 a.m. service begins in the dark and welcomes the sunrise as together we dismantle the black pall that covers the communion table to experience anew the joy of God's resurrection power.

The twin services at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. feature the joyful, beautiful music of our Chancel Choir and the excitement of Brass accompaniment to our hymns. In each service we hear again of Mary Magdalene's discovery of the empty tombs as she witnesses to having seen the Lord! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!