Daily Devotional for Lent



**Austin Seminary Lenten Devotional**

***Read* the devotional put together by *A*ustin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. It is a collection of reflections, prayers, and practices that you can incorporate during the**

**season of Lent.**

Special Days and Services

**Ash Wednesday Service**

*March 5th 7 pm*

*Experience* Ash Wednesday worship as we focus on our need of a savior; renew our commitment to daily repentance; and remember with confidence and gratitude that Christ has conquered death and sin.

The placing of ashes on the forehead is a central part of the worship service. Ashes have a long history in biblical and church traditions. In Scripture ashes or dust symbolize frailty or death (Gen. 18:27), sadness or mourning (Esther 4:3), judgment (Lam. 3:16), and repentance (Jon. 3:6). All these images are caught up in the church’s use of ashes as a symbol appropriate for Lent. In Christ’s passion we see God’s judgment on evil; in our penitence we express sorrow and repentance for our sins; in our rededication we show that we are purified and renewed.

**Midweek Lenten Meal & Reflection**

*Wednesdays, March 12 – April 16,*

*5:30-7:15*

*Prepare* for the miracle of Easter by reflection on Jesus’ resurrection – perhaps the most central and important tenet of our faith as Christians. Acknowledging and understanding Jesus’ resurrection, in its many meanings and guises, will be the focus of this year’s Lenten supper and study series. We’ll share a simple supper of bread and soup, then reflect upon and discuss such topics as:

* Biblical Accounts of the Crucifixion of Jesus
* The 4 Biblical Accounts of Jesus’ Resurrection
* The Price of Redemption, and
* The Meaning of Salvation

Schedule of Lenten Soup and Study evenings is

 5:30 – 6:15 Dinner

 6:15 – 7:30 Study

While no special preparation before hand is required, a recent publication is available as a reference– The Resurrection of Jesus – it is a dialogue between two contemporary theologians familiar to many of us from prior book studies: John Dominic Crossan & N.T. Wright.. If you wish to purchase the “companion” book through the church (~$15), in advance, please sign-up.

Childcare is provided.

**Palm Sunday**

*April 13, 2014 Worship at 10 am*

*Come* celebrate the last Sunday in Lent. This day recalls Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The crowd waved palm branches and spread their cloaks before him as he entered Jerusalem for the last time. Remembering Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem begins Holy Week.

**Holy Week Communion**

*Monday, April 14, 12:15 – 12:45, Chancel*

*Tuesday, April 15, 12:15 – 12:45, Chancel*

*Wednesday, April 16, 12:15 – 12:45, Chancel*

*Join* Pastor Karen as we contemplate the deep mystery of God’s love and Jesus’ sacrifice with Holy Communion.

**Maundy Thursday**

*April 17, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary*

*Remember* the last evening Jesus shared with his disciples in the upper room before his arrest and crucifixion. Maundy Thursday marks three key events in Jesus’ last week: his washing of his disciples’ feet, his institution of the Lord’s Supper, and his new commandment to love one another. The name “Maundy Thursday” comes from the Latin *mandatum novum,* referring to the “new commandment” Jesus taught his disciples (John 13:34). In other words, this is “new commandment Thursday.”

**Good Friday**

*April 18, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary*

*Commemorate* Jesus’ death on the cross at this Tenebrae service where each portion of the passion narrative is marked by extinguishing a candle and darkening the worship space. While the Good Friday service is somber because of this historical remembrance, the goal is not simply, or primarily sadness, but *profound wonder and gratitude for God’s amazing grace.*

What is Lent?

Lent is a time to prepare our hearts and lives for the glorious joy of Christ’s resurrection from the dead. The early church set aside 40 days to prepare for Easter. They did so remembering the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert preparing for his ministry and the 40 years the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness learning to be God’s people.

Lent is a special time to reflect on our human brokenness (sin) and God’s redemptive grace. It is a time of renewal as well as a time to re-commit ourselves to following Jesus and his teaching

Observing Lent

One ancient custom is to mark the season of Lent by giving up some things and taking on others. Both can serve to honor the season as a holy time of preparation. Some examples of things people give up for Lent include sweets, meat for all or some meals, and alcohol. This can be especially meaningful by using the time or money for another purpose. For example, meal time on fast days could be spent in prayer. Or money usually spent on dessert could be set aside for the One Great Hour of Sharing that supports a hunger program and provides disaster assistance worldwide. Some things added during Lent might be additional Bible reading, fasting on Fridays, extra time for prayer, reading the church’s Lenten devotional and attending some of the special services.

The pastor’s stole and church paraments are royal purple for Lent, a somber reminder of the King of Glory who died in our place.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God’s love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities, and feeds the hungry.

Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

**Where does the money go?**

The [Presbyterian Hunger Program](http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/hunger/) receives 36 percent of undesignated One Great Hour of Sharing gifts, while the [Self-Development of People](http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/sdop/) and [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/pda/) each receive 32 percent.

**When is the offering received?**

We will be receiving this special offering on Palm Sunday March 13, 2014. For more information go to: pcusa.org/ministries/specialofferings

Keeping

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Holy Lent:

An Invitation to

Lenten Observance at

Delmar

Presbyterian

Church

585 Delaware Ave.

Delmar, NY 12054

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www.delmarpres.org