

WEEKDAY WORDS

Homer Congregational United Church of Christ
Thursday, April 1, 2021

OUR JOURNEY THROUGH HOLY WEEK:

Throughout this season of Lent we have been making the invitation - *Come, Holy Spirit*. Symbols have been collected:

A Dove – reminding us of Jesus’ baptism.

A Cross – Jesus said that anyone who follows him must *take up a cross*.

Bread & Cup – Grace enough for everyone.

Light – In John 3, we are encouraged to let light shine upon our *entire* lives.

Wheat – Jesus identifies a truth – that unless a grain of wheat dies and is planted in the earth, there will not be a harvest.

A Palm – Jesus enters Jerusalem waging peace.

We are so grateful for Kathy McKenna’s artistry that turned dried gourds into an expression of faith for our Lenten journey.

There are events in our lives that invite us to sacrifice some time. Some of us have stayed up late to watch some March Madness basketball. Movie buffs are making an extra effort to watch all eight of the nominated films before the Oscars. As for our family of faith -- we have entered our holiest days of the year. This week, we will spend some extra time. We will change our schedules a bit so that we can experience the drama of Holy Week:

TODAY at 7 PM

Maundy Thursday

Jesus invites us to a special meal where bread is broken and cup is blessed. Bring your own elements or make use of a pre-packaged kit. As you enter the sanctuary you will receive some red carnations. After communion, we will join Jesus in the garden for prayer. Bring your carnations forward, along with your quiet prayers, and place them amidst the symbols of our journey.

Friday at 5 PM

Good Friday

After Jesus died, his body was taken down from the cross and wrapped for burial. On this Good Friday we choose to stay with Jesus and to listen to his last words, spoken from the cross. After each expression, dried herbs and flowers will be added to our altar cross. Throughout the service, Jeanine Rose and Joseph Ford are going to offer some of our favorite and most haunting music for this day.

Holy Saturday

We are unable to live-stream either service. If you are unable to participate in one or both of our services, take some time to read the stories from your Bible. On this day of holy quiet, settle in and read:

Exodus 12:1-4 & 11-14; I Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 34-35

Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12; Psalm 22; John 18:1 – 19:42

If you enjoy Handel’s *Messiah*, you could also listen to the 2nd section that begins with *Behold the Lamb of God* and includes *And With His Stripes* and *All We Like Sheep Have Gone Astray*.

AND THEN...

Sunday at 10:30 AM

Easter Sunday

Leadership Team for the Day:

Rev. Burtson, Linda Homer (Trustee) and Lori Schmidt (Deacon)

We have had a good response and many reservations have been made. Our sanctuary will be close to "Covid FULL" as we celebrate this service of Resurrection!

At least 5 sections have been reserved for our friends from the community who didn't realize that we were asking for reservations. As you arrive on Sunday, please check in with those taking attendance (a Covid requirement) and then sit wherever you please, except for those reserved sections. If you are able to do steps, feel free to sit in the middle pew of the balcony.

During the service, our children will meet Pastor Peeps. We have a gift bag for our kids, as well, so send *all* your kids up for the Children's Time!

It is Communion Sunday. Bring your own elements or take a pre-packaged kit as you enter, then join in the meal that brings "Hallelujah" to our lips.

The Easter flowers have been given in memory of an array of people whose names will be lifted during our time of prayer. Many thanks to all who have donated.

And finally, Joe and our choir have gifted us with a new anthem. Hallelujah, indeed!

OUR EASTER SERVICE WILL BE LIVE-STREAMED.

Mark your Calendar!

Festive Music for Trumpet and Organ

Sunday, April 18 at 3 PM

Trumpeter, Ralph Dudgeon, and organist, Ken Herman will perform a concert of *Festive Music for Trumpet and Organ* on Sunday 18 April 2021 at 3 PM in the Homer Congregational Church. There is no admission charge, but a freewill offering will benefit the Food Pantry in Homer. The audience will be masked and seated according to CDC guidelines.

The concert will feature a wide swath of music by Buxtehude, Viviani, Arauxo, Fasch, Boyce, Longlais, Hovhaness, Schroeder, Persichetti, Bernstein, and Ginastera.

There will be no *Weekday Words* the week following Easter.

Pastor Vicki will be out of the office for the week.

If you have an emergency, contact

Lori Schmidt (607.745.5377) or David Rutherford (607.272.1134).

Watch for the *Cranes of Hope* to fly on our green, starting Saturday, April 10!