**Weekday Words**

Thursday, April 10, 2025

**An Invitation**

In our faith tradition, this coming week is called “Holy Week”. For the people who follow Jesus, this is our opportunity to share an incredible week of drama and the related emotions experienced by him. So that your Easter joy may be enhanced, I invite you to share Jesus’ journey within the confines of your life. I am aware that some of us are homebound and thus, it is not possible to physically get to the church. Others of us have kids and, unfortunately, our plans conflict with your regular schedule of dinner and bedtime. With those circumstances in mind, this invitation is addressed to everyone.

I invite you to join in the journey from the hilltop above Jerusalem, into the city, and back to a hill called Golgotha. Jesus descended that first hill on a donkey, and it was certainly a bumpy ride. That’s an understatement about the whole week. Here is how we could journey together:

This Sunday we kick the journey off from the Mount of Olives. It is **Palm Sunday**.

Faith Formation begins at 9:30. We’re all about palms and palm crosses in the RFR.

Adults: We will discuss pp. 190-212 of *A Sand County Almanac.*

During 10:30 worship, Carrie Scheibner will bring a symbol of what sustains her, spiritually. As we wave palms and shout Hosanna!, Sheri Saddlemire will spend some time with the kids. Afterward, Jeff and Sam Penoyer will provide nursery care. We’ll hear the story told in Luke 19:28-40 and then Pastor Vicki will reflect upon a parade led by someone on a donkey. This week there is no coffee hour. If you cannot attend worship in person, find our service live stream on Facebook, YouTube or at [www.homercc.com](http://www.homercc.com)

Remember that there are special envelopes available for your gifts in support of the Bathroom upgrades.

Tuesday:

 12:15 15-minute ZOOM discussion for *A Sand County Almanac*.

 Read the portions titled “Wisconsin” and “Utah”.

 6:30 Our Trustees will meet.

Wednesday:

 5:00 Discussion of the portions titled “Wisconsin” and “Utah” in *A Sand County*

*Almanac*. This will be the final discussion in our series.

On Thursday, we observe **Maundy Thursday** at 7 PM

“Maundy” is derived from the Latin word for “mandate”. On this evening, we gather in our quiet place to be with Jesus at Table and in the garden. This was the evening that Jesus gave the mandate for us to love one another. On this holy night, as we pray, we will lay red carnations on a cross. If you cannot join us in person, take the time on Thursday to read these scriptures: Luke 22:7-20; Luke 22:39-54a

The next day is called **Good Friday**.

On Friday, our quiet place becomes a somber place as we ponder Jesus’ last words. The schedule for the day includes:

11:30 Youth Lenten Gathering at church with PV and Stef.

5:30 **Good Friday Service**

During this service, the seven last words of Jesus will be read by our youth, and symbolic spices will be added to the altar cross. Music will include meditative selections provided by Andrea at the organ, Joe at the piano, and Jeanine playing recorder. If your Friday responsibilities prevent your attendance, then find time on Friday to read:

1st Word Luke 23:34 Herb: Jasmine

 2nd Word Luke 23:43 Herb: Roselle

3rd Word John 19:26-27 Herb: Basil

4th Word Mark 15:34 Herb: Don’t Forget Me

5th Word John 19:28 Herb: Mint

6th Word John 19:30 Herb: Rosemary

7th Word Luke 23:46 Herb: Lavender

 In between each passage, consider using the breathing prayer:

breath in thinking: Jesus, remember me…

breath out thinking: …when you come into your kingdom.

**Holy Saturday** is traditionally a day of quiet; however, the Village Rec. Department will host an Easter Egg Hunt on our green. Members of the Outreach Team will offer hospitality from our front steps. Whatever your day involves, let there be a quiet moment to remember that Jesus’ body is resting in a tomb, blocked off by a large stone. It was a day of profound grief for all those women and men who followed him in ministry. Since we know the end of the story, it might be difficult to fully grasp. I hope that the engagement of holy writing throughout the week will help us appreciate the disciples’ experience.

And THEN, together we greet the new day: **Easter Sunday**

 No Faith Formation this Sunday.

At 10:30, we will take every opportunity to say “Hallelujah!” as we celebrate the joy of resurrection. There will be special Easter gifts for our children and youth, so invite your neighbors and friends! Coffee hour will be hosted by our Deacons. Remember the Christmas Eve cupcakes made by Whisk and Whimsey? They were so good that we have ordered cupcakes for Easter, as well. Eat one here or take them to go. It will be the perfect end to a joyous morning. If you cannot attend worship in person, find our service live stream on Facebook, YouTube or at [www.homercc.com](http://www.homercc.com)

Got family photos? Join us before and after worship to have an Easter photo taken. Our youth are setting up a special area for pictures. One of them will have a camera and another will be available to take the photo with your phone.

May your efforts in experiencing the scriptures for this Holy Week help you grow deeper roots of faith and connection to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

**As you pray…**

Pray for: Allan, Charlie, Dick, Jean, Kathy, Jim & Kathy, Patty, and Paul.

Today during the Committee on Authorized Ministry, this prayer by Mother Teresa was offered. May it be a helpful prayer today and each day this week:

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered; forgive them anyway.

If you do good, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; do good anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies; succeed anyway.

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable; be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, there may be jealousy; be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough; give the world the best you’ve got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God; it was never between you and them anyway.

**Expressions of Gratitude**

As our Lenten Journey comes to a close, we express our thanks to Gary McCaslin, Jim McKenna, Susan Wilson, and Aldo Leopold. The conversations we had via Zoom and in person were thought-provoking. We pondered the intricacies and joy of creation – from a perfectly landed “fly” in fly-fishing to the telltale communications gained from seeing the rings of growth in a tree. We talked about the dwindling wilderness and celebrated the places where land is being returned to its natural state. The conversations helped us to understand the Creator’s original purpose – that humanity is just one part of a larger community that includes plants, animals, fish, trees, and birds. Thanks to all of you for your participation and contributions to the experience.

As the bathroom restoration nears completion, we express thanks to Russ Pedersen, Kathleen Dentes, and the CCC team – Don Richards, Bill, Garrett, Pat, and Nate. Kathleen and Russ spent hours working on the design that will carry us for another 40-50 years. We are so grateful for the time, energy, and skills that were given toward the project. Thanks, as well, to each of you who have given a second-mile-gift toward the cost of the project.

Finally, we express thanks for the multiple people who have made this season of Lent/Easter a spiritually nourishing time. Thanks to Paula & Kathleen for an extraordinary worship center. Thanks to each person who shared a symbol of what spiritually sustains them. Thanks to each musician taking part in the music of the season. Thanks to Stef, Belinda, and the youth for the marvelous experiences of sharing dinner together at the manse. God is so good.