



LENT GUIDE

2021
FEBRUARY 17 - APRIL 2



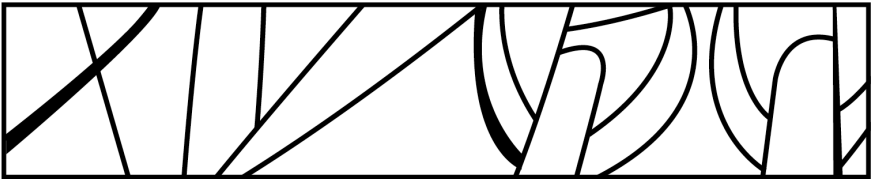
FRIENDS & FAMILY,

At Grace we know that every movement of God begins with an invitation. This Lent we invite you to join us on a journey through Scripture that abounds with invitations for all of us!

Perhaps, like us, navigating our world's current challenging conditions has been draining and heavy at times. Yet, we have also found that this difficult season has served to energize us to move forward with renewed passion for what we believe to be important and who we hold dear. We hope the same for you.

Lent is yet another season of opportunity. It's a time for us to open up space in our daily lives to practice faith-deepening rhythms that remind us we are to live in a posture of loving God and our neighbor, prepared for Christ's return. As we set our sights on celebrating Easter, let's give ourselves fully to the practices in this Lent Guide. Together, we will reflect on the breathtaking events surrounding the resurrection and encounter God in awe-inspiring ways.

On the journey with you,
Pastor Doug & Meg Kempton



INTRODUCTION

Lent is a season that invites us to slow down our usual hurried pace of life to seek God with greater intensity. It provides a rhythm for us to learn and experience spiritual practices such as Bible reading, reflection, prayer, fasting, and giving.

These practices awaken our soul and help us position ourselves to gain a deeper knowing of the most compelling love story ever lived—the pain and the promise, the joy and the sorrow—of the life, death and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Lenten season is celebrated for 40 days, excluding Sundays, beginning Ash Wednesday and ending Good Friday. Biblically, 40 is a meaningful number. The flood rains fell for 40 days, Moses remained on Sinai for 40 days to receive the Ten Commandments, Elijah made a 40 day journey to Mount Horeb, and the temptations of Christ were marked by his 40 day fast in the desert.

This Lent, our readings take us on a winding path through the Old and New Testaments for a 40 day journey together. We will interact with Scripture using the daily *15 Minutes with God* format, symbolically following Jesus on his bold and final trek into Jerusalem.

Fasting and giving are essential parts of Lent. A fast, in some form, is encouraged in order to make more space in our life for intentional time with God. Traditionally, a Lent fast is Monday - Saturday. Sundays are reserved for worship and feasting in community with family and friends. We will also participate in acts of generosity.

The value of Lent is that its practices call us to step back from the ways in which we normally distract or comfort ourselves so that we can recognize and remove unhealthy patterns from our lives. With these diversions stripped away, we have greater freedom, we hear God more clearly, and we can have an ongoing and ever deepening intimacy² with Him.

Look forward to hearing and accepting the personal invitations God has for you this Lent!

HOW TO USE THIS LENT GUIDE

This guide is meant to be used for *15 Minutes with God* during the seven weeks of Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday. In addition, we will practice the Prayer of Examen each week.

Monday - Friday interact with the provided passage of Scripture for each day. Spend five minutes reading the passage, five minutes journaling about what you sense God is saying to you through the passage, and five minutes in prayer.

Saturday take part in the Prayer of Examen—a prayerful review of your week. There are two questions to answer: *What gave you life this week? What drained you this week?*

The guide concludes with space for reflecting on your Lent experience. (p. 114) Pages are provided in the back of the guide for personal notes on your fasting and giving. (p. 116)

Most of the Scripture passages are from the Revised Common Lectionary Lent Calendar, Year B, using the English Standard Version Bible.

SACRIFICE AND SELFLESSNESS

Lent bids us to give things up as well as give to those in need. Self denial by way of a fast can help to loosen the grip of sin and compulsion on our lives. Acts of generosity cause us to notice others and expands our hearts for those Jesus calls our neighbor.

The point of fasting is to remove something from our normal diet, or our usual routine, to open space to be more attentive to our spiritual health. For example, skipping a meal each day and instead using the time for prayer is a way for us to seek a deeper connection with God. Or, unplugging ourselves from social media and alternatively spending some time in silence each day provides an opportunity to attune our heart to the Spirit's promptings.

Being generous with our time and resources serves to make us more aware of and responsive to the needs and care of others around us. Even the smallest act of kindness can have big impact and has the potential to create a ripple effect.

On the next page you will find a list of possible fasting and giving options to practice throughout Lent. If none of the listed options resonate with you, research other ways to fast and practice generosity. Prayerfully select a fast and an act of generosity that most closely corresponds with an area in your life in the deepest need of transformation.

You could participate in a variety of the options, one for each week of Lent, or choose one to practice for the entire 40 days. Prayerfully consider your course and plan ahead for adjustments you will need to make to your lifestyle.

Most importantly, enjoy God's company as you practice sacrifice and selflessness.

Fasting Options:

- Food—Abstain from a meal(s) or omit certain foods from your diet
- TV / Netflix / Movies / Gaming / Talk Radio - Abstain
- Shopping - Abstain from purchasing anything non-essential for yourself
- Phone - Abstain from sunset to sunrise
- Social Media / Internet - Abstain from unnecessary communication
- Sleep - Set your alarm an hour earlier each day to wake up to pray

Note: Traditionally a Lenten fast is practiced Monday through Saturday. Sundays are reserved for worship and feasting in community with friends and family.

Giving Options:

- Correspondence - Send an encouraging note/text to a different person every day
- Simplify - Thoughtfully give away a favorite personal possession each day or weekly
- Presence - Spend time with someone who is lonely, grieving, or in crisis
- Charity - Give financially to an individual in need or a reputable organization
- Service - Babysit for free for a family / Buy or cook someone a meal / Change someone's flat tire / Volunteer at a shelter / Repair someone's appliance / Clean someone's house, etc.

2021 CALENDAR

Due to the COVID-19 season we are in, all chapel hours are online only as of the printing of this guide. Should anything change, we will also open the chapel for in-person use.

ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 17, 7-8AM

The Lenten season begins! Join us online in the chapel, where we've created a peaceful atmosphere to quietly read and reflect on the first Lent reading and journal your thoughts. We'll finish up together with a short word and Communion.

WEEKDAY REFLECTION

MONDAY-FRIDAY

7AM - 7:45AM | PERSONAL REFLECTION

7:45AM - 8AM | INSPIRATIONAL WORD AND COMMUNION

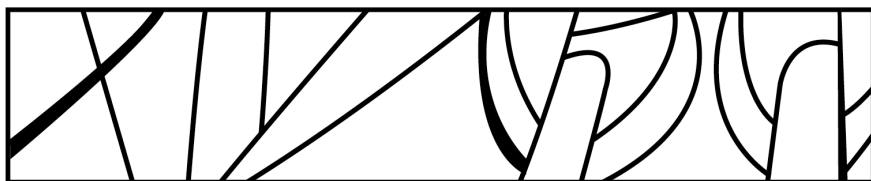
We've set aside this time throughout Lent for you to join us online in the chapel, where you'll see lighted candles, hear soft music playing, and read/journal in your Lent Guides. We'll finish up together with a short word and Communion.

GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 2

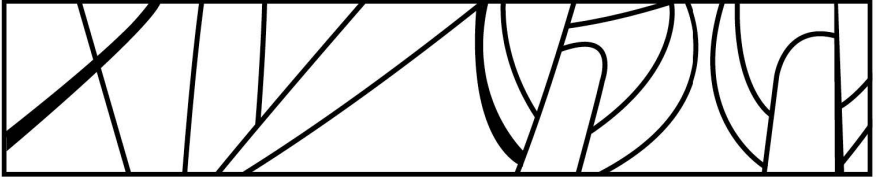
Watch for details on Stations of the Cross and a Good Friday Service.

EASTER CELEBRATION SERVICES SUNDAY, APRIL 4

Watch for details.



WEEK ONE



**LORD, TEACH ME TO LISTEN.
THE TIMES ARE NOISY AND MY EARS ARE WEARY
WITH THE THOUSAND RAUCOUS SOUNDS
WHICH CONTINUOUSLY ASSAULT THEM.
GIVE ME THE SPIRIT OF THE BOY SAMUEL
WHEN HE SAID TO THEE,
“SPEAK, FOR THY SERVANT HEARETH.”
LET ME HEAR THEE SPEAKING IN MY HEART.
LET ME GET USED TO THE SOUND OF THY VOICE.
AMEN.**

- A.W. TOZER

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday ushers in the season of Lent. Throughout church history, the placement of ashes on one's forehead was an outward symbol of an inner repentance, as well as a reminder of our own mortality—that we are dust and to dust we will return (Genesis 3:19). Many Christians continue the ritual of ashes today.

Whether we partake in the tradition of ashes or not, at the heart of Ash Wednesday is God's invitation to stop whatever we are doing and take some time to come before Him in complete honesty through prayer, self examination and repentance.

Reading—Psalm 51:1-17

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ⁸

ways, and sinners will return to you. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

Reading—2 Corinthians 5:20 - 6:10

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you."

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

Reading—Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

PRAYER OF EXAMEN

February 20

What gave you life this week?

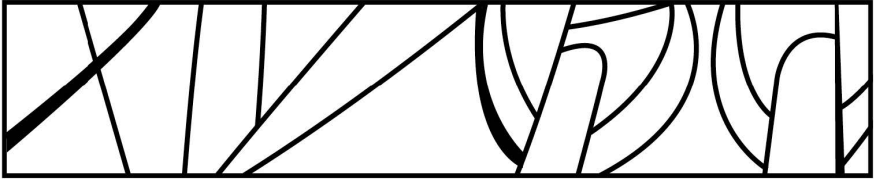
What drained you this week?

What is God inviting you to notice? Express your thoughts in a written prayer or by drawing a picture:

Prayer:

Draw:

WEEK TWO



**GOD, WE THANK YOU FOR THE INSPIRATION OF JESUS.
GRANT THAT WE WILL LOVE YOU WITH ALL OUR HEARTS,
SOULS, AND MINDS,
AND LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS AS WE LOVE OURSELVES,
EVEN OUR ENEMY NEIGHBORS.
AND WE ASK YOU, GOD,
IN THESE DAYS OF EMOTIONAL TENSION,
WHEN THE PROBLEMS OF THE WORLD ARE GIGANTIC
IN EXTENT AND CHAOTIC IN DETAIL,
TO BE WITH US IN OUR GOING OUT AND OUR COMING IN,
IN OUR RISING UP AND IN OUR LYING DOWN,
IN OUR MOMENTS OF JOY AND IN OUR MOMENTS OF SORROW,
UNTIL THE DAY WHEN THERE SHALL BE
NO SUNSET AND NO DAWN.
AMEN.**

- MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Reading—Genesis 9:8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.”

God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

Reading—Psalm 25:1-10

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

*O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.*

*Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.*

*Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.*

*Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long.*

*Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.*

*Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions:
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!*

*Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.*

*He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.*

*All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and
faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and
his testimonies.*

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

Reading—1 Peter 3:18-22

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

Reading—Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

Reading—Hebrews 10:4-10

For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

PRAYER OF EXAMEN

February 27

What gave you life this week?

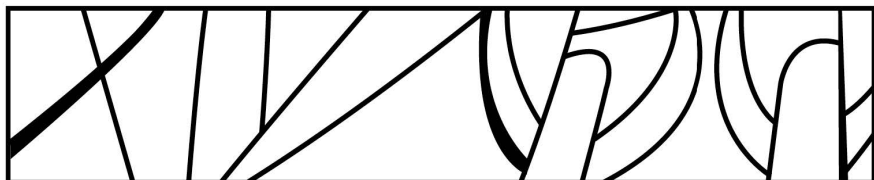
What drained you this week?

What is God inviting you to notice? Express your thoughts in a written prayer or by drawing a picture:

Prayer:

Draw:

WEEK THREE



**O GOD,
LET SOMETHING ESSENTIAL HAPPEN TO ME,
SOMETHING MORE THAN INTERESTING
OR ENTERTAINING, OR THOUGHTFUL.**

**O GOD,
LET SOMETHING ESSENTIAL HAPPEN TO ME,
SOMETHING AWESOME, SOMETHING REAL.
SPEAK TO MY CONDITION, LORD,
AND CHANGE ME SOMEWHERE INSIDE WHERE IT MATTERS,
A CHANGE THAT WILL BURN AND TREMBLE AND HEAL
AND EXPLODE ME INTO TEARS
OR LAUGHTER OR LOVE THAT THROBS OR SCREAMS
OR KEEPS ITS TERRIBLE, CLEANSING SILENCE
AND DARES THE DANGEROUS DEEDS.
AMEN.**

- TED LODER

Reading—Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

Reading—Psalm 22: 23-31

*You who fear the Lord, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
For he has not despised or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted,
and he has not hidden his face from him,
but has heard, when he cried to him.
From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.
The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the Lord!
May your hearts live forever!
All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before you.
For kingship belongs to the Lord,
and he rules over the nations.
All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
even the one who could not keep himself alive.
Posterity shall serve him;
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;
they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a
people yet unborn, that he has done it.*

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

Reading—Romans 4:13-25

For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

Reading—Mark 8:31-38

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

Reading—Mark 9:2-9

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. And Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.

And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

PRAYER OF EXAMEN

March 6

What gave you life this week?

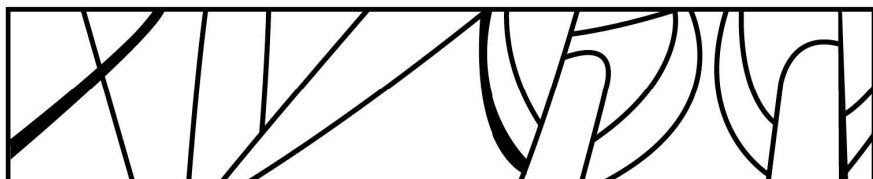
What drained you this week?

What is God inviting you to notice? Express your thoughts in a written prayer or by drawing a picture:

Prayer

Draw:

WEEK FOUR



LORD, LORD, OPEN UNTO ME

**OPEN UNTO ME, LIGHT FOR MY DARKNESS
OPEN UNTO ME, COURAGE FOR MY FEAR
OPEN UNTO ME, HOPE FOR MY DESPAIR
OPEN UNTO ME, PEACE FOR MY TURMOIL
OPEN UNTO ME, JOY FOR MY SORROW
OPEN UNTO ME, STRENGTH FOR MY WEAKNESS
OPEN UNTO ME, WISDOM FOR MY CONFUSION
OPEN UNTO ME, FORGIVENESS FOR MY SINS
OPEN UNTO ME, TENDERNESS FOR MY TOUGHNESS
OPEN UNTO ME, LOVE FOR MY HATES
OPEN UNTO ME, THY SELF FOR MYSELF
LORD, LORD, OPEN UNTO ME!
AMEN.**

- HOWARD THURMAN

Exodus 20:1-17

And God spoke all these words, saying,

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. “You shall have no other gods before me.

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. “You shall not murder. “You shall not commit adultery. “You shall not steal. “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

“You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.”

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

Reading—Psalm 19

*The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.*

*Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.*

*There is no speech, nor are there words,
whose voice is not heard.*

*Their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.*

*In them he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his
chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.*

*Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing
hidden from its heat. The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure,
making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are
right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is
pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean,
enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true,
and righteous altogether.*

*More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;*

*sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.*

*Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.*

Who can discern his errors?

Declare me innocent from hidden faults.

*Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;
let them not have dominion over me!*

*Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.*

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,*

O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

Reading—1 Corinthians 1:18-25

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

*“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”*

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

Reading—John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

Reading—Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12

*Behold, my servant shall act wisely;
he shall be high and lifted up,
and shall be exalted.*

*As many were astonished at you—
his appearance was so marred, beyond human
semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of
mankind—so shall he sprinkle many nations.*

*Kings shall shut their mouths because of him,
for that which has not been told them they see,
and that which they have not heard they understand.*

*Who has believed what he has heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?*

*For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.
He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our
sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God,
and afflicted.*

*But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.*

*All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

*He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.*

*By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?
And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.
Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.*

*Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see[k] and be
satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my
servant, make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.
Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for
the transgressors.*

Journal on next page...

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

PRAYER OF EXAMEN

March 13

What gave you life this week?

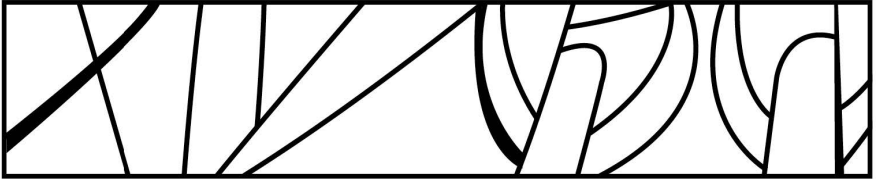
What drained you this week?

What is God inviting you to notice? Express your thoughts in a written prayer or by drawing a picture:

Prayer:

Draw:

WEEK FIVE



OH, LORD! I LIFT MY HEART,
IN GRATITUDE, TO THEE,
FOR BLESSINGS, MANIFOLD,
THOU HAST BESTOWED ON ME.
WHEN CONFLICTS RAGED WITHIN,
TOO BLINDING TO EXPRESS,
THOU PITIED MY STILL TONGUE,
AND SOOTHED MY HEART TO REST.
KEEP ME WITHIN THY CARE;
COMPEL ME, TO THE RIGHT;
'TIS SWEET TO WALK WITH THEE,
IN DARKNESS OR IN LIGHT.
AMEN.

- PRISCILLA JANE THOMPSON

Reading—Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

Reading—Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

*Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!*

*Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
whom he has redeemed from trouble
and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.*

*Some were fools through their sinful ways,
and because of their iniquities suffered affliction;
they loathed any kind of food,
and they drew near to the gates of death.*

*Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.*

*He sent out his word and healed them,
and delivered them from their destruction.*

*Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wondrous works to the children of man!*

*And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving,
and tell of his deeds in songs of joy!*

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

Reading—Ephesians 2:1-10

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

Reading—John 3:14-21

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

Reading—Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

What gave you life this week?

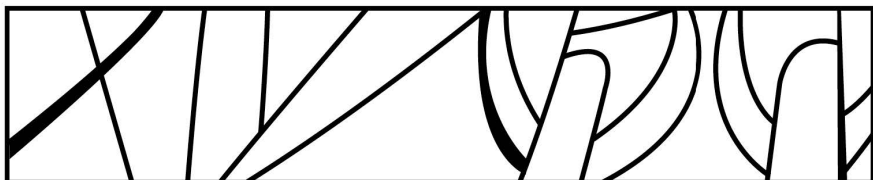
What drained you this week?

What is God inviting you to notice? Express your thoughts in a written prayer or by drawing a picture:

Prayer:

Draw:

WEEK SIX



**GOD, GIVER OF LIFE
YOU ALONE KNOW
HOW OUR LIFE CAN TRULY SUCCEED...
SHOW US HOW TO LET GO
OF WHATEVER HINDERS US
FROM MEETING YOU,
FROM LETTING OURSELVES BE TOUCHED BY YOUR WORD.
HELP US TO WELCOME AND ACCEPT
WHATEVER IN US YEARNS TO COME ALIVE
IN THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS
YOU HAVE DREAMED FOR US TODAY
AND EVERY DAY FOR EVER AND EVER.
AMEN.**

- PETER VAN BREEMAN

March 22

Reading—Jeremiah 31:31-34

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

Reading—Psalm 119:9-16

How can a young man keep his way pure?

By guarding it according to your word.

With my whole heart I seek you;

let me not wander from your commandments!

I have stored up your word in my heart,

that I might not sin against you.

Blessed are you, O Lord;

teach me your statutes!

With my lips I declare

all the rules of your mouth.

In the way of your testimonies I delight

as much as in all riches.

I will meditate on your precepts

and fix my eyes on your ways.

I will delight in your statutes;

I will not forget your word.

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

Reading—Hebrews 5:5-10

So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him,

“You are my Son,

today I have begotten you”;

as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,

after the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

Reading—John 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

Reading—Mark 11:1-11

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.’” And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. And some of those standing there said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”

And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

PRAYER OF EXAMEN

March 27

What gave you life this week?

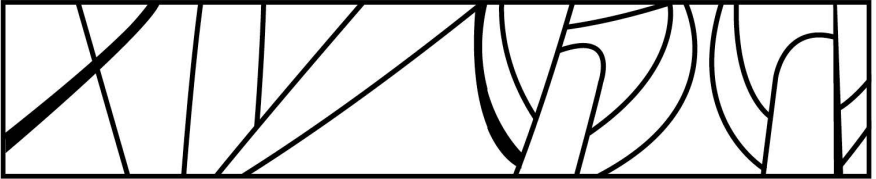
What drained you this week?

What is God inviting you to notice? Express your thoughts in a written prayer or by drawing a picture:

Prayer:

Draw:

WEEK SEVEN



**O GOD, LET FEAR DIE AND CONVICTION
BE BORN IN OUR LIVES.
LET YOUR LIGHT DAWN IN OUR MINDS
AS THE DAY DAWNS ON THE EARTH.
LET US NOT BE SO BUSY HURRYING INTO THE FUTURE
AND WORRYING ABOUT THE PAST THAT WE LOSE TODAY
-THE ONLY DAY WE HAVE.
GOD, HELP US DO WHAT WE KNOW WE HAVE TO DO, TODAY,
AND LEAVE TOMORROW TO YOU.
AMEN.**

- MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

Reading—Isaiah 42:1-9

*Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
 my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
 I have put my Spirit upon him;
 he will bring forth justice to the nations.
 He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
 or make it heard in the street;
 a bruised reed he will not break,
 and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
 he will faithfully bring forth justice.*

*He will not grow faint or be discouraged
 till he has established justice in the earth;
 and the coastlands wait for his law.*

*Thus says God, the Lord,
 who created the heavens and stretched them out,
 who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
 who gives breath to the people on it
 and spirit to those who walk in it:*

*“I am the Lord; I have called you[b] in righteousness;
 I will take you by the hand and keep you;
 I will give you as a covenant for the people,
 a light for the nations,
 to open the eyes that are blind,
 to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
 from the prison those who sit in darkness.
 I am the Lord; that is my name;
 my glory I give to no other,
 nor my praise to carved idols.*

*Behold, the former things have come to pass,
 and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I
 tell you of them.”*

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

Reading—Psalm 71:1-14

*In you, O Lord, do I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame!
In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;
incline your ear to me, and save me!
Be to me a rock of refuge,
to which I may continually come;
you have given the command to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.
Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel man.
For you, O Lord, are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, from my youth.
Upon you I have leaned from before my birth;
you are he who took me from my mother's womb.
My praise is continually of you.
I have been as a portent to many,
but you are my strong refuge.
My mouth is filled with your praise,
and with your glory all the day.
Do not cast me off in the time of old age;
forsake me not when my strength is spent.
For my enemies speak concerning me;
those who watch for my life consult together
and say, "God has forsaken him;
pursue and seize him,
for there is none to deliver him."
O God, be not far from me;
O my God, make haste to help me!
May my accusers be put to shame and consumed;
with scorn and disgrace may they be covered
who seek my hurt.
But I will hope continually
and will praise you yet more and more.*

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

Reading—Philippians 2:5-11

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Prayer

Reading—Mark 14

It was now two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest him by stealth and kill him, for they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar from the people."

And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head. There were some who said to themselves indignantly, "Why was the ointment wasted like that? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they scolded her. But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial. And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray him.

And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, "Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us." And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, "Is it I?" He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." Peter said to him, "Even though they all fall away, I will not." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." But he said emphatically, "If I must die with you, I will not deny you." And they all said the same.

And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch." And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And again he came and found them sleeping,

for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. And he came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard." And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" And he kissed him. And they laid hands on him and seized him. But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. And Jesus said to them, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled." And they all left him and fled.

And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.

And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son⁹⁸

of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.” And the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further witnesses do we need? You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?” And they all condemned him as deserving death. And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophesy!” And the guards received him with blows.

And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, “You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus.” But he denied it, saying, “I neither know nor understand what you mean.” And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, “This man is one of them.” But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, “Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.” But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know this man of whom you speak.” And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

Journal on next page...

Journaling

Prayer

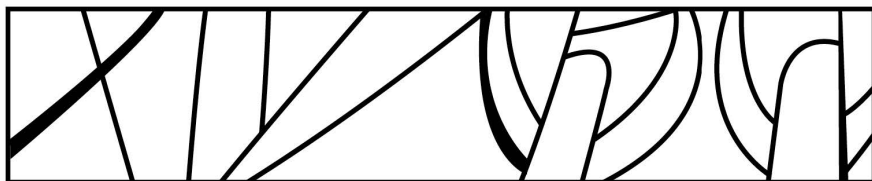
GOOD FRIDAY, **APRIL 2**

GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 2

Watch for details on Stations of the Cross and a Good Friday Service.

EASTER CELEBRATION SERVICES SUNDAY, APRIL 4

Watch for details.



Reading—Mark 15

And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." And the chief priests accused him of many things. And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. And he answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" And they cried out again, "Crucify him." And Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. And it was the third hour when they crucified him. And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema

sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where he was laid.

Journaling

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Journaling con't...

Prayer

■ PRAYER OF EXAMEN ■

April 3

What gave you life this week?

What drained you this week?

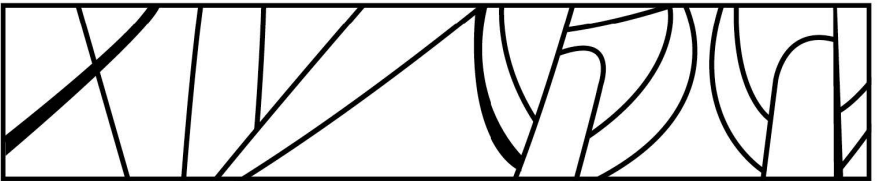
What is God inviting you to notice? Express your thoughts in a written prayer or by drawing a picture:

Prayer

Drawing

THE CONFESSIONS OF **ST. AUGUSTINE**

THE MAKER OF MAN WAS MADE MAN,
THAT THE RULER OF THE STARS MIGHT SUCK AT THE BREAST;
THAT THE BREAD MIGHT BE HUNGERED;
THE FOUNTAIN, THIRST; THE LIGHT, SLEEP;
THE WAY, BE WEARIED BY THE JOURNEY;
THE TRUTH BE ACCUSED BY FALSE WITNESSES;
THE JUDGE OF THE LIVING AND THE DEAD,
BE JUDGED BY A MORTAL JUDGE;
THE CHASTENER, BE CHASTISED WITH WHIPS;
THE VINE BE CROWNED WITH THORNS;
THE FOUNDATION, BE HUNG UPON A TREE;
STRENGTH, BE MADE WEAK; HEALTH, BE WOUNDED; LIFE, DIE.
TO SUFFER THESE AND SUCHLIKE THINGS,
UNDERSTAND THINGS,
THAT HE MIGHT FREE THE UNDERSERVING,
FOR NEITHER DID HE DESERVE ANY EVIL,
WHO FOR OUR SAKES ENDURED SO MANY EVILS,
NOR WERE WE DESERVING OF ANYTHING GOOD,
WE WHO THROUGH HIM RECEIVED SUCH GOOD.



My Lenten Reflection

Looking back, what themes and threads emerged for you through your Lent experience?

Looking ahead, what steps is God inviting you to take?

Notes

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GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH
21001 MOROSS ROAD, DETROIT, MI 48236

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