

# Worship Brainstorming

## Selah: Life in a Minor Key

Based on a series from UMC Discipleship Ministries

Tues., February 8, 2022 in Fellowship Hall

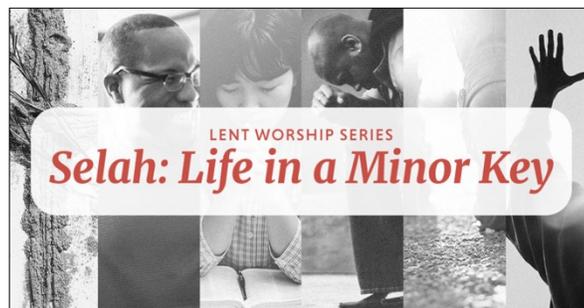
6:00 p.m. Potluck

7:00-9:30 p.m. Brainstorming for Worship

March 2 (Ash Wednesday) - Easter Sunday (April 17), 2022 (7 Sundays)

The worship brainstorming for this series (Lent and Easter) will be held in our Fellowship Hall. Members of all ages and backgrounds are invited to participate in the one-time commitment. The ideas generated at the brainstorming are used in worship.

We will have a potluck at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to share. Brainstorming is from 7:00-9:30 p.m. **Safety protocols will be the same as at church.**



More information is available at church and on our website. Please pick up the brainstorming packet at church or find it online, read the Scripture, and Pastor Mary's message synopses, and preview videos when they become available. Please RSVP to Karen Booth at [kwbooth@comcast.net](mailto:kwbooth@comcast.net), 231-798-8431, or 231-557-1069 or by signing up at church.

**Social Justice Issue for March 2022:** Mass incarceration

**Social Justice Issue for April 2022:** Creation care

**Theme:** The Spiritual Journey Continues...Picking up the pieces

- Connecting the pieces
- Transformation
- Serving others (passionately)

**Metaphors:**

- Puzzle/puzzle pieces – making a new picture. Related hands-on item: puzzle piece with scripture reference.
- Mosaic – creating something beautiful from broken pieces

**Major spoken/unspoken needs:**

- Dealing with fear, which often presents itself as anger and rage. One antidote to fear is serving.
- Peace, sense of belonging, safe communities, coming together, compassion
- Finding a new normal – less busy, better sense of priorities, greater gratitude, increased resilience

**Synopsis:** The theme for this Lenten series comes from an obscure, but often repeated word in various psalms: Selah. There is much debate as to what the word means, whether it is instruction, description, or simply a punctuation of some kind.

**Notes on meaning of *Selah*:**

- A Hebrew word of unknown meaning at the end of verses in the Psalms: perhaps a musical direction, but traditionally interpreted as a blessing meaning “forever”
- A word occurring between verses or paragraphs in parts of the Hebrew Bible - 71 times in Psalms, 3 times in Habakkuk
- Could indicate a pause for punctuation or contemplation - *Stop and listen, Pause and consider*
- Christian music group Selah says their name means "to lift up the voice in praise"
- Musicians in every genre have used Selah in their performances and song titles - Bono of U2, Lauryn Hill, and Kanye West (who defined it as "to look back and reflect upon"),

**2022 theme connection:** Psalms is full of examples of people who cry out to God for help and praise him through life’s challenges.

**Notes from Pastor Mary:** The psalms have inspired prayer and reflection for centuries and are deeply personal and poetic. Martin Luther called the Psalms “a little Bible.” John Wesley said, “this book brings us into the sanctuary, draws us off from converse with men [and women], with the philosophers or disputers of this world, and directs us into communion with God.”

**Resource:** Based on a Discipleship Ministries lectionary series

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/selah-life-in-a-minor-key>

During the season of Lent, we are encouraged to engage in a Season of *Selahs*. While the word has not been definitively defined in scripture, the placement of the word suggests a shift, pause, break, or interruption; it suggests exhaling or resting from routine activities. It is thought that the “Selah” functions much like a musical rest. This describes how we should understand our posture throughout the forty days of Lent. Christians are urged to refrain from business as usual in order to attend to the body, spirit, mind, soul, and heart. It is a time set aside for worshipers to connect their faith walk with the ways in which they live, move, and have their being throughout daily life. Thus, the trajectory for the Lenten journey is a renewed spirit and a genuine desire to become an incarnational presence in the world.

**Related resources:** Worship Matters podcast focusing on series

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/worship-matters-episode-04-selah>

Psalms is the songbook of the Bible.

Spirituals served many purposes: Codes to convey messages, Didactic tools, Social commentary, and Sermonettes.

Lent is designed to be introspective - a time when we consider our heart and soul

*How do I feel? What’s going on in my heart?*

**Music:**

- Ask Mary Scott if she has piano arrangements of spirituals

- Pastor Mary has a CD of spirituals done in the style of lullabies

**Visuals:**

- Use the word SELAH as a visual in front of sanctuary
- Liturgical symbols: Purple fabrics from various cultures, water (quiet waterfall), Garden of Gethsemane (vines, dry stalks, wheat, large rocks – replace on Easter with lilies)
- Psalm prints <http://churchstagedesignideas.com/psalm-prints/>
- Psalm fence <http://churchstagedesignideas.com/psalm-fence/>

**Resources:**

- Weekly countdown using spirituals as background music?
- Spirituals used each week in worship - whether choir anthem or congregational song
- Invite people to write their own psalm
- Small group resource for Lent based on the series
- <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/faith-formation-selah-life-in-a-minor-key>
- Selah devotional for Holy Week

**Questions to consider:**

- How important is song in your faith community?
- How does song function in worship celebrations?
- How does song serve to promote Selah-moments in worship?
- What are the heart-songs of your faith community?
- What songs best express or affect your relationship with God?
- What songs help your corporate community pray?
- Whose songs are missing from your community?
- What songs help to promote the ethos of the *beloved community*?
- Has the soundtrack of your congregation reached the ears of those beyond your sanctuary?
- What role has song played in your local church’s discipleship efforts?

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**March 2, 2022: Ash Wednesday**

Worship at Central UMC at 7:00 p.m.

**Rev. Paul Perez preaching**

**Scripture:** Psalm 51 may be used - confession of sin

**Activity:** Imposition of ashes and healing prayer

**Ideas from Discipleship Ministries** [https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/tips-for-ash-wednesday-during-covid-19?mc\\_cid=d053e5c1f9&mc\\_eid=b090e4f745](https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/tips-for-ash-wednesday-during-covid-19?mc_cid=d053e5c1f9&mc_eid=b090e4f745)

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**March 6, 2022: “Happy Are Those”**

Lent 1

**Scripture:** Psalm 32 (Common English Bible) “A Maskil (Instruction?) of David”

32 The one whose wrongdoing is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered over, is truly happy!  
<sup>2</sup> The one the LORD doesn't consider guilty—  
in whose spirit there is no dishonesty—  
that one is truly happy!  
<sup>3</sup> When I kept quiet, my bones wore out;  
I was groaning all day long—  
every day, every night!—  
<sup>4</sup> because your hand was heavy upon me.  
My energy was sapped as if in a summer drought. **Selah**  
<sup>5</sup> So I admitted my sin to you;  
I didn't conceal my guilt.  
"I'll confess my sins to the LORD," is what I said.  
Then you removed the guilt of my sin. **Selah**  
<sup>6</sup> That's why all the faithful should pray to you during troubled times,  
so that a great flood of water won't reach them.  
<sup>7</sup> You are my secret hideout!  
You protect me from trouble.  
You surround me with songs of rescue! **Selah**  
<sup>8</sup> I will instruct you and teach you  
about the direction you should go.  
I'll advise you and keep my eye on you.  
<sup>9</sup> Don't be like some senseless horse or mule,  
whose movement must be controlled  
with a bit and a bridle.  
Don't be anything like that!  
<sup>10</sup> The pain of the wicked is severe,  
but faithful love surrounds the one who trusts the LORD.  
<sup>11</sup> You who are righteous, rejoice in the LORD and be glad!  
All you whose hearts are right, sing out in joy!

**Synopsis:** Happy isn't a mood we associate with the season of Lent it seems to call for something more somber, reflective, and inward looking. We're called to search our souls, understand our need for forgiveness because of our sin, and rejoice in the presence of our Savior Jesus. He offers an answer to our deepest needs.

**Felt need:** To claim the joy of forgiveness from God through Jesus

**Visuals:**

**Hands-on item:**

**Activity:** Holy Communion

**Media possibilities:** "Psalm 32." Length: 3:02. Cost: \$16.99. Web license: Yes. Visual liturgy.  
<https://skitguys.com/videos/psalms-for-lent-iii-psalm-32>

**Music:** *There is a Balm in Gilead* (UMH 375), *Amazing Grace* (UMH 378), *Taste and See* (FWS 2279)

**Children's Time:**

**Social media:**

**Discussion points:**

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**March 13, 2022: “Going Out and Coming In”**

**Lent 2**

**Scouting Sunday (?)**

**Scripture:** Psalm 121 (New Living Translation) “A Song for Pilgrims Ascending to Jerusalem”

<sup>1</sup> I look up to the mountains—does my help come from there?

<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth!

<sup>3</sup> He will not let you stumble; the one who watches over you will not slumber.

<sup>4</sup> Indeed, he who watches over Israel never slumbers or sleeps.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD himself watches over you! The LORD stands beside you as your protective shade.

<sup>6</sup> The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon at night.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD keeps you from all harm and watches over your life.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever.

**Synopsis:** Even though Lent may have a routine for us, we need to always pay attention - both to what’s happening inwardly and outwardly. Lent is intentional time to upset our routines and recognize God’s presence even in the midst of our routines. When we pay attention or don’t, when we go out or come in, we are not alone.

**Felt need:** To recognize God’s presence more readily every day, even in our routines

**Visuals:**

**Hands-on item:**

**Activity:**

**Media possibilities:**

- “Psalm 121 (Shift Worship).” Length: 1:26. Cost: Free with subscription. Web license: Yes. Visual liturgy. <https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/77957/psalm-121>
- “Psalm 121 (Centerline Media).” Length: 1:55. Cost: Free with subscription. Web license: Yes. Visual liturgy. <https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/107887/psalm-121>
- “My Helper.” Length: 1:00. Cost: \$19.99. Web license: Yes. Visual liturgy. <https://www.sermonspice.com/sermon-illustrations/98354/my-helper>
- “Psalm 121: Call to Worship Version 1.” Length: 1:30. Cost: \$16.99. Web license: Yes. <https://skitguys.com/videos/psalm-121-call-to-worship>
- “Psalm 121: Call to Worship Version 2.” Length: 1:29. Cost: \$16.99. Web license: Yes. <https://skitguys.com/videos/psalm-121-call-to-worship-1>
- “Psalm 121 Worship Reflection.” Length: 1:30. Cost: \$16.99. Web license: Yes. <https://skitguys.com/videos/transition-psalm-121>

**Music:** *Give Me Jesus* (WS 3140), *Christ Beside Me* (FWS 2166), *God Will Take Care of You* (UMH 130)

**Children’s Time:**

**Social media:**

**Discussion points:**

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**March 20, 2022: “Worship and Bow Down”**

Lent 3

**Scripture:** Psalm 95 (The Message)

<sup>1-2</sup> Come, let’s shout praises to GOD, raise the roof for the Rock who saved us!  
Let’s march into his presence singing praises, lifting the rafters with our hymns!

<sup>3-5</sup> And why? Because GOD is the best, High King over all the gods.  
In one hand he holds deep caves and caverns, in the other hand grasps the high mountains.  
He made Ocean—he owns it! His hands sculpted Earth!

<sup>6-7</sup> So come, let us worship: bow before him, on your knees before GOD, who made us!  
Oh yes, he’s our God, and we’re the people he pastures, the flock he feeds.

<sup>7-11</sup> Drop everything and listen, listen as he speaks:  
“Don’t turn a deaf ear as in the Bitter Uprising,  
As on the day of the Wilderness Test,  
    when your ancestors turned and put *me* to the test.  
For forty years they watched me at work among them,  
    as over and over they tried my patience.  
And I was provoked—oh, was I provoked!  
    ‘Can’t they keep their minds on God for five minutes?  
    Do they simply refuse to walk down my road?’  
Exasperated, I exploded,  
    ‘They’ll never get where they’re headed, never be able to sit down and rest.’”

**Synopsis:** Many of the words translated as *worship* involve movement, even a worship posture that puts us face down. The psalmist tells us to bow and kneel, reminding us that worship isn’t just a heady exercise, but a whole-body thing where we offer all of ourselves. Worship is about God and the community gathered together. We worship our Creator who sends us out to live and love the world and all who dwell in it.

**Felt need:** To remember Whom and why we worship

**Visuals:**

**Hands-on item:**

**Activity:**

**Media possibilities:**

- “Psalm 95 (Shift Worship).” Length: 1:27. Cost: Free with subscription. Web license: Yes. This simple worship starter echoes the call of Psalm 95 to make loud and joyful praise to the Rock of our salvation, the King above all gods, as we prepare to bow in worship before our Maker. <https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/20451/psalm-95>
- “Psalm 95 (He Is Our God).” Length: 1:11. Cost: \$19.99. Web license: Yes. There isn’t a moment where God is not worthy of praise. Psalm 95 powerfully illustrates what it means

to answer the call to worship. Come, let us sing to the Lord...for He is our God!

<https://skitguys.com/videos/psalm-95-he-is-our-god>

- “Call to Worship: Psalm 95.” Length: 1:07. Cost: \$16.99. Web license: Yes. Use this call to worship, based on Psalm 95, to prepare your congregation for service as we're encouraged to praise and celebrate our King and Creator. <https://skitguys.com/videos/call-to-worship-psalm-95>
- “A Psalm of Worship.” Length: 1:33. Cost: Free with subscription. Web license: Yes. Come let us sing or joy to the Lord our Maker. <https://www.playbackmedia.com/minimovies/54350/a-psalm-of-worship>

**Music:** *Steal Away to Jesus* (UMH 704), *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* (UMH 89), *Here I Am to Worship* (WS 3177), *Come, Now Is the Time to Worship* (WS 3176)

**Children’s Time:**

**Social media:**

**Discussion points:**

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## March 27, 2022: “In Right Paths”

Lent 4

**Scripture:** Psalm 23 (Contemporary English Version) A Psalm by David “The Good Shepherd”

23 You, LORD, are my shepherd. I will never be in need.

<sup>2</sup> You let me rest in fields of green grass.

You lead me to streams of peaceful water,

<sup>3</sup> and you refresh my life.

You are true to your name, and you lead me along the right paths.

<sup>4</sup> I may walk through valleys as dark as death, but I won’t be afraid.

You are with me, and your shepherd’s rod makes me feel safe.

<sup>5</sup> You treat me to a feast, while my enemies watch.

You honor me as your guest, and you fill my cup until it overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Your kindness and love will always be with me each day of my life,  
and I will live forever in your house, LORD.

**Synopsis:** At the heart of this psalm-song is an invitation to trust in the One who provides care, the One who gathers in, the One who heals and comforts and loves, the One who puts our feet on the right path. And that’s our prayer this Lenten season - to walk in God’s way and seek God’s will.

**Felt need:** To trust in God’s care and love as Shepherd of our lives

**Visuals:** sheep

**Hands-on item:** Handout on Psalm 23

The Lord is my Shepherd – *That’s Relationship!*

I shall not want – *That’s Supply!*

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures – *That’s Rest!*

He leadeth me beside still waters – *That’s Refreshment!*

He restoreth my soul – *That’s Healing!*  
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness – *That’s Guidance!*  
For His name sake – *That’s Purpose!*  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death – *That’s Testing!*  
I will fear no evil – *That’s Protection!*  
For Thou art with me – *That’s Faithfulness!*  
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me – *That’s Discipline!*  
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies – *That’s Hope!*  
Thou annointest my head with oil – *That’s Consecration!*  
My cup runs over – *That’s Abundance!*  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life -*That’s Blessing!*  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord – *That’s Security!*  
Forever – *That’s Eternity!*  
The Lord is My Shepherd

**Activity:**

**Media possibilities:**

- “Psalm 23 (Shift Worship).” Length: 2:00. Cost: We own it. Last used 9/27/20. Web license: yes. “I’m not out here on my own. The Lord is my shepherd.” Based on the much-loved Psalm, this worship mini movie encourages us to rest in the watchful care of our loving God. <https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/52495/psalm-23>
- “Psalm 23 Mini Movie.” Length: 1:31. Cost: Free with subscription. Web License: Yes. A young girl’s voice recites the beloved and comforting passage from the Psalms as she walks through vast and beautiful fields beneath wide-open skies. <https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/108805/psalm-23-mini-movie>
- “Psalm 23 (Rob Perry).” Length: 1:40. Cost \$15.00. Web license: No. <https://www.sermonspice.com/sermon-illustrations/41111/psalm-23>
- “Psalm 23 (Freebridge Media).” Length: 1:08. Cost: \$19.99. Web license: Yes. Twenty Third is a beautiful visual representation of Psalm 23, revealing God’s love, care, protection and provision for His Children. <https://skitguys.com/videos/twenty-third>
- “My Shepherd.” Length: 1:16. Cost: \$19.99. Web license: Yes. Visual liturgy. <https://skitguys.com/videos/my-shepherd>

**Music:** *Guide My Feet* (FWS 2208), *He Leadeth Me* (UMH 128), *Come and Find the Quiet Center* (FWS 2128)

**Children’s Time:**

**Social media:**

**Discussion points:**

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**April 3, 2022: “Out of the Depths”**

Lent 5

**Rev. Kim Bos preaching**

**Scripture:** Psalm 130 (The Message)

<sup>1-2</sup> Help, GOD—I’ve hit rock bottom! Master, hear my cry for help!

Listen hard! Open your ears! Listen to my cries for mercy.

<sup>3-4</sup> If you, GOD, kept records on wrongdoings, who would stand a chance?  
As it turns out, forgiveness is your habit, and that's why you're worshiped.

<sup>5-6</sup> I pray to GOD—my life a prayer—and wait for what he'll say and do.  
My life's on the line before God, my Lord, waiting and watching till morning, waiting and  
watching till morning.

<sup>7-8</sup> O Israel, wait and watch for GOD—  
with GOD's arrival comes love, with GOD's arrival comes generous redemption.  
No doubt about it—he'll redeem Israel, buy back Israel from captivity to sin.

**Synopsis:** As we journey closer to Holy Week, this psalm is a cry from the depths of pain or despair. There is no clear resolution, no clear fix to the brokenness; the separation still abides. And yet, there is hope. There is confidence, even from a position of pain, that resolution is at hand. There is a trust that even in suffering, Jesus knows us deeply.

**Felt need:** To understand that we don't struggle alone

**Visuals:**

**Hands-on item:**

**Activity:** Holy Communion

**Media possibilities:** "Our Mess, God's Masterpiece." Length: 2:29. Cost: \$16.99. Web license: Yes. It's easy to feel like our life is a mess. It can be easy to lose hope...but change has come. Remember that Jesus overcame the world and he wants to make something beautiful out of our lives! He wants to make your life His Masterpiece. <https://skitguys.com/videos/our-mess-gods-masterpiece>

**Music:** *Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen* (UMH 520), *Abide with Me* (UMH 700), *Be Still, My Soul* (UMH 534), *O Lord, Hear My Prayer* (FWS 2200); *I Will Wait for You* (Shane & Shane – Psalm 130 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8pCbtLeXzc>)

**Children's Time:**

**Social media:**

**Discussion points:**

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## April 10, 2022: "A Palm Road and Broken Pottery"

Palm Sunday

**Scripture:** Luke 19: 28-40 (NIV) "Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King"

<sup>28</sup> After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup> As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, <sup>30</sup> "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'"

<sup>32</sup> Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

<sup>34</sup> They replied, "The Lord needs it."

<sup>35</sup> They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

<sup>37</sup> When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

<sup>38</sup> "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

<sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

<sup>40</sup> "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

**Scripture: Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29 (New Living Translation)**

118 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> Let all Israel repeat: "His faithful love endures forever."

<sup>19</sup> Open for me the gates where the righteous enter, and I will go in and thank the LORD.

<sup>20</sup> These gates lead to the presence of the LORD, and the godly enter there.

<sup>21</sup> I thank you for answering my prayer and giving me victory!

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup> This is the LORD's doing, and it is wonderful to see.

<sup>24</sup> This is the day the LORD has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

<sup>25</sup> Please, LORD, please save us. Please, LORD, please give us success.

<sup>26</sup> Bless the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.

<sup>27</sup> The LORD is God, shining upon us. Take the sacrifice and bind it with cords on the altar.

<sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I will praise you! You are my God, and I will exalt you!

<sup>29</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.

**Scripture: Psalm 31: 9-16 (Common English Bible)**

<sup>9</sup> Have mercy on me, LORD, because I'm depressed.

My vision fails because of my grief, as do my spirit and my body.

<sup>10</sup> My life is consumed with sadness; my years are consumed with groaning.

Strength fails me because of my suffering; my bones dry up.

<sup>11</sup> I'm a joke to all my enemies, still worse to my neighbors.

I scare my friends, and whoever sees me in the street runs away!

<sup>12</sup> I am forgotten, like I'm dead, completely out of mind;

I am like a piece of pottery, destroyed.

<sup>13</sup> Yes, I've heard all the gossiping, terror all around;

so many gang up together against me, they plan to take my life!

<sup>14</sup> But me? I trust you, LORD! I affirm, "You are my God."

<sup>15</sup> My future is in your hands. Don't hand me over to my enemies,  
to all who are out to get me!

<sup>16</sup> Shine your face on your servant; save me by your faithful love!

**Synopsis:** The psalms express the highest joy and the deepest sorrow, which is reminiscent of what Jesus and the crowds experienced as he came into Jerusalem as a part of a protest-

parade and then as things moved quickly to his arrest, trial, and death. It's right for us to engage in this journey deeply - reflecting on our place in the hopeful crowd and hearing Jesus express words of sorrow.

**Felt need:** To experience the hope of the people and heartbreak of Jesus

**Visuals:** palm branches, broken pottery

**Hands-on item:** palm branches

**Activity:**

**Media possibilities:**

- "Last Words of Christ: The Disciples and the Donkey (Palm Sunday)." Length: 3:27. Cost: \$16.99. Web license: Yes. One of the disciples struggles with the assignment they've been given by Jesus – to get a donkey. The other reminds him of the miracles Jesus has performed, and ultimately convinces his fellow disciple that they can trust Jesus, even if they don't understand why He's asking them to do this. <https://skitguys.com/videos/last-words-of-christ-the-disciples-and-the-donkey-palm-sunday>
- "Palm Sunday Is Here." Length: 1:22. Cost: \$18.00. Web license: Yes. Slow motion bursts of brilliant colors compliment bold text that describes the excitement of welcoming our King on Palm Sunday. <https://skitguys.com/videos/palm-sunday-is-here>
- "Give Thanks (Psalm 118)." Length: 1:36. Cost: Free with subscription. Web license: Yes. This energetic worship intro is based on Psalm 118. <https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/87549/give-thanks-psalm-118>

**Music:** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* (UMH 278), *All Glory, Laud and Honor* (UMH 280), *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* (FWS 2112)

**Children's Time:**

**Social media:**

**Discussion points:**

## April 14, 2022: "A Basin, Some Bread, and Betrayal"

Holy Thursday

**Scripture:** Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19 (Common English Bible)

116 I love the LORD because he hears

my requests for mercy.

<sup>2</sup> I'll call out to him as long as I live,

because he listens closely to me.

<sup>3</sup> Death's ropes bound me;

the distress of the grave found me—

I came face-to-face with trouble and grief.

<sup>4</sup> So I called on the LORD's name:

"LORD, please save me!"

<sup>12</sup> What can I give back to the LORD

for all the good things he has done for me?

<sup>13</sup> I'll lift up the cup of salvation.

I'll call on the LORD's name.

<sup>14</sup> I'll keep the promises I made to the LORD  
in the presence of all God's people.  
<sup>15</sup> The death of the LORD's faithful  
is a costly loss in his eyes.  
<sup>16</sup> Oh yes, LORD, I am definitely your servant!  
I am your servant and the son of your female servant—  
you've freed me from my chains.  
<sup>17</sup> So I'll offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to you,  
and I'll call on the LORD's name.  
<sup>18</sup> I'll keep the promises I made to the LORD  
in the presence of all God's people,  
<sup>19</sup> in the courtyards of the LORD's house,  
which is in the center of Jerusalem.  
Praise the LORD!

**Scripture: John 13 - to be read in sections**

Verses 1-17: "Jesus Washes His Disciples Feet"

Verses 18-30: "Jesus Predicts His Betrayal"

Verses 31-38: "Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial"

**Scripture: Psalm 41 (The Message)**

<sup>1-3</sup> Dignify those who are down on their luck; you'll feel good—*that's* what GOD does.  
GOD looks after us all, makes us robust with life—  
Lucky to be in the land, we're free from enemy worries.  
Whenever we're sick and in bed, GOD becomes our nurse, nurses us back to health.

<sup>4-7</sup> I said, "GOD, be gracious! Put me together again— my sins have torn me to pieces."  
My enemies are wishing the worst for me; they make bets on what day I will die.  
If someone comes to see me, he mouths empty platitudes,  
All the while gathering gossip about me to entertain the street-corner crowd.  
These "friends" who hate me whisper slanders all over town.  
They form committees to plan misery for me.

<sup>8-9</sup> The rumor goes out, "He's got some dirty, deadly disease."  
The doctors have given up on him."  
Even my best friend, the one I always told everything  
—he ate meals at my house all the time!— has bitten my hand.

<sup>10</sup> GOD, give grace, get me up on my feet. I'll show them a thing or two.

<sup>11-12</sup> Meanwhile, I'm sure you're on my side—no victory shouts yet from the enemy camp!  
You know me inside and out, you hold me together,  
you never fail to stand me tall in your presence so I can look you in the eye.

<sup>13</sup> Blessed is GOD, Israel's God, always, always, always. Yes. Yes. Yes.

**Synopsis:** Jesus' sacrificial love is on display as he washes feet and calls his friends to serve in his name, all while they plot to kill him, struggle to understand, and eventually betray him. Perhaps his feelings are heard in the psalmist's own struggle with those who hurt us.

**Felt need:** To hear Jesus' call to serve and to sit with the discomfort of that call

**Visuals:**

**Hands-on item:**

**Activity:** Holy Communion, handwashing/footwashing

**Media possibilities:**

**Music:** *Jesu, Jesu* (UMH 432), *Were You There* (UMH 288)

**Children's Time:**

**Social media:**

**Discussion points:**

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## **April 15, 2022: "Gathered at the Foot of the Cross"**

Good Friday - Worship at Temple UMC at 12:00 p.m.

**Scripture:** Psalm 22 (?) "A Plea for Deliverance from Suffering and Hostility"

**Scripture:** John 18-19

- Jesus is betrayed and arrested
- Jesus at the High Priest's house
- Peter's first denial
- The High Priest questions Jesus
- Peter's second and third denials
- Jesus' trial before Pilate
- Jesus sentenced to death
- The crucifixion
- The death of Jesus
- The burial of Jesus

**Music:** *Were You There*

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## **April 17, 2022: "This Is THE Day"**

Easter Sunday

**Scripture:** Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 (Common English Bible)

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD because he is good, because his faithful love lasts forever.

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel say it: "God's faithful love lasts forever!"

<sup>14</sup> The LORD was my strength and protection; he was my saving help!

<sup>15</sup> The sounds of joyful songs and deliverance are heard in the tents of the righteous:  
"The LORD's strong hand is victorious!"

<sup>16</sup> The LORD's strong hand is ready to strike! The LORD's strong hand is victorious!"

<sup>17</sup> I won't die—no, I will live and declare what the LORD has done.

<sup>18</sup> Yes, the LORD definitely disciplined me, but he didn't hand me over to death.

<sup>19</sup> Open the gates of righteousness for me so I can come in and give thanks to the LORD!

<sup>20</sup> This is the LORD's gate; those who are righteous enter through it.

<sup>21</sup> I thank you because you answered me, because you were my saving help.

<sup>22</sup> The stone rejected by the builders is now the main foundation stone!

<sup>23</sup> This has happened because of the LORD; it is astounding in our sight!

<sup>24</sup> This is the day the LORD acted; we will rejoice and celebrate in it!

**Scripture:** Luke 24: 1-12 (The Message) **“Looking for the Living One in a Cemetery”**

<sup>24</sup> <sup>1-3</sup> At the crack of dawn on Sunday, the women came to the tomb carrying the burial spices they had prepared. They found the entrance stone rolled back from the tomb, so they walked in. But once inside, they couldn’t find the body of the Master Jesus.

<sup>4-8</sup> They were puzzled, wondering what to make of this. Then, out of nowhere it seemed, two men, light cascading over them, stood there. The women were awestruck and bowed down in worship. The men said, “Why are you looking for the Living One in a cemetery? He is not here, but raised up. Remember how he told you when you were still back in Galilee that he had to be handed over to sinners, be killed on a cross, and in three days rise up?” Then they remembered Jesus’ words.

<sup>9-11</sup> They left the tomb and broke the news of all this to the Eleven and the rest. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them kept telling these things to the apostles, but the apostles didn’t believe a word of it, thought they were making it all up.

<sup>12</sup> But Peter jumped to his feet and ran to the tomb. He stooped to look in and saw a few grave clothes, that’s all. He walked away puzzled, shaking his head.

**Synopsis:** What no one thought was possible happened. The women who went to the tomb to care for Jesus in death found a word of life and hope. Even though it seemed like “you had to be there” to believe it, the good news of resurrection spread, and we can rejoice and be glad!

**Felt need:** To claim the joy of resurrection and hope of eternal life in Jesus

**Visuals:**

**Hands-on item:**

**Activity:**

**Media possibilities:**

- “Easter Sunday Psalm 118.” Length: 2:28. Cost: \$16.99. Web license: Yes. Based on Psalm 118, this call to worship invites us to give thanks and praise to God for His love and deliverance. <https://skitguys.com/videos/psalms-for-lent-iii-psalm-118>
- “This Is Resurrection.” Length: 2:33. Cost: Free with subscription. Web license: Yes. This brings together those who have doubts and those who are certain about faith, showing us that resurrection is more than just a story to believe in – it’s something that happens every day. Include two version that differ only in background music: Celebration & Contemplative. <https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/65049/this-is-resurrection>

**Music:** *He Rose* (UMH 316)

**Children’s Time:**

**Social media:**

NOTE: Sunrise Service will be at either Mona Lake Boating Club or LHUMC Memorial Garden.

**Discussion points:**