

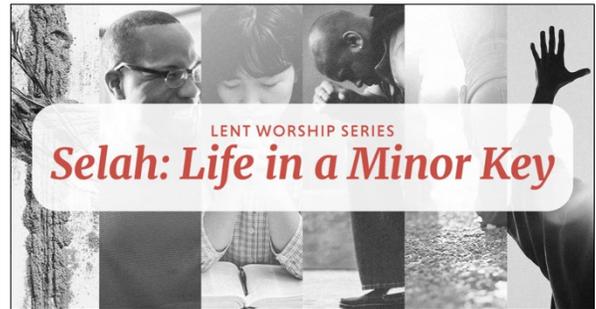
Worship Brainstorming

Selah: Life in a Minor Key

Based on a series from UMC Discipleship Ministries
Tues., February 8, 2022

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

Members present: Dave Booth, Ron Zuker, Vicki Zuker, Sue Baranowski, Ed Baranowski, Jean Kelly, Pastor Mary, Betty Kinney, Mudgi Cavender, Karen Post, Jim Post, Barb Gripton, Diane Thompson, Paul Powers, Karen Booth



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: *Selah* ([/ˈsi:lə\(h\)/](#); [Hebrew](#): סֶלָה, transliterated as *selāh*)

- 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 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pnaQa9c6pnA> and related article <https://selahafrik.com/2016/09/u2-singer-bono-christian-artistes-honesty-psalms/>
 - Lauryn Hill <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LBAAbWdBWtA>
 - Kanye West (who defined it as "to look back and reflect upon") <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CNPg2IQoCO> **Comments:** Ana has high praise for Kanye's newest album which has so many religious messages.

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 and our August 2018 series "Psalms for the Soul": 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 resource: 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 (teaching) 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: The first song in each week's list is a spiritual.

- 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 (UMC Discipleship Ministries): Purple fabrics from various cultures, water (quiet waterfall), Garden of Gethsemane (vines, dry stalks, wheat, large rocks –

replace on Easter with lilies or other flowers, live or artificial). Painted “rock” drop cloths helped us create a tomb (over an ice fishing tent) in 2015.

- Music symbols
- 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
- The Bible Project offers a 9-minute introductory video to the Psalms at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9phNEaPrv8>

Questions to consider: We'll focus on where we are (in-person and livestream worship), not where we once were, pre-pandemic with only in-person worship.

- 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?

General discussion points: 1) Online worshippers miss singing with others. If nothing else, there should be a song leader. The choir or praise team could lead. 2) How different would life be if we took a little pause? Adults and teens have been conditioned to respond quickly rather than stepping back and thinking. How has that worked out? Usually not well. We later learn the rest of the story and find we were wrong. We regret our response. We react very strongly. 3) It is very hard to interpret texts.

Songs that speak to us:

- #378 *Amazing Grace* and #3104 *My Chains Are Gone*
- #593 *Here I Am, Lord*
- #344 *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*
- #57 *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*
- #437 *This Is My Song*
- Chris Tomlin songs
- Michael W. Smith songs
- #94/95 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*
- #77 *How Great Thou Art*

- #707 *Hymn of Promise*
- *Beautiful Savior*
- *Come to the Table* by Sidewalk Prophets
- *In This Very Room (There's Quite Enough Love for All of Us)*
- #377 *It Is Well, with My Soul*
- #504 *Old Rugged Cross*
- #140 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*
- #89 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*
- #314 *In the Garden*
- #2171 *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

March 2, 2022: Ash Wednesday

Worship at Central UMC at 7:00 p.m. (in-person and livestreamed)

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

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!

² The one the LORD doesn't consider guilty—
in whose spirit there is no dishonesty—
that one is truly happy!

³ When I kept quiet, my bones wore out;
I was groaning all day long—
every day, every night!—

⁴ because your hand was heavy upon me.
My energy was sapped as if in a summer drought. **Selah**

⁵ 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**

⁶ That's why all the faithful should pray to you during troubled times,
so that a great flood of water won't reach them.

⁷ You are my secret hideout!
You protect me from trouble.
You surround me with songs of rescue! **Selah**

⁸ I will instruct you and teach you
about the direction you should go.
I'll advise you and keep my eye on you.

⁹ 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!

¹⁰The pain of the wicked is severe,
but faithful love surrounds the one who trusts the LORD.

¹¹You 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. See the bottle of water illustration below.

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: 1) Tuesday Morning Bible Study has been reading a Psalm a week for quite a while. It is interesting how reading and pondering them regularly has been so meaningful. 2) The "selahs" appear at natural pause points. 3) Carrying the weight of sin and guilt saps our strength. It is too much to bear (verses 3-4). The Psalms speak to this very intense human experience. 4) What does Lent make you think of?

- Easter/eggs
- Self-examination
- Ash Wednesday: This worship service that reminds us of our own mortality (the great equalizer), how we choose to live our limited time on earth matters, and our need for confession.
- Sacrifice
- Preparation
- Spring

5) Confession of sin to God is difficult, but living out the consequences of our guilt can be even more difficult and messy. 6) Vicki: A recent NPR program asked people to send in their questions and stories about regret. It is amazing how long people carry their "stuff." *Note from Karen:* I don't know Daniel Pink is the one Vicki talked about, but his book and this interactive website are interesting (<https://worldregretsurvey.com/>). 7) Betty: How do we know for sure if God has forgiven us? Answer: He has promised as much. And with people? There is freedom in knowing that we have done all we can in asking someone for forgiveness. We don't have control over their responses. 8) Pastor Mary ask couples in pre-marital counseling to state specific ways that they can demonstrate forgiveness. 9) Unforgiveness destroys us. Jim saw a university professor demonstrate this with a bottle of water. He asked his students how it would feel to hold it at an arm's length. How does it

feel for a few seconds? Minutes? How long would it be before you couldn't hold it up any more? That is what it is like holding on to resentment, pain, and anger. Just set it down.

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"

¹ I look up to the mountains—does my help come from there?

² My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth!

³ He will not let you stumble; the one who watches over you will not slumber.

⁴ Indeed, he who watches over Israel never slumbers or sleeps.

⁵ The LORD himself watches over you! The LORD stands beside you as your protective shade.

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

⁷ The LORD keeps you from all harm and watches over your life.

⁸ 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: Write down the sacrifice we plan to make for Lent. Could we make a paper chain or other visual display of the responses?

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 – sung by Danny Gokey at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbh43MGoigw>), *Christ Beside Me* (FWS 2166), *God Will Take Care of You* (UMH 130)

Children’s Time:

Social media:

Discussion points: 1) Pastor Mary’s favorite Psalms are 121 (today’s psalm), 23, and 46 in that order. Psalm 121 reminds us that God is with us in the midst of everyday stuff. Pastor Mary’s grandma asked to have this read at her funeral using the KJV. Verse 1 does not end in a question, but a declaration: I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. *Give Me Jesus* was also sung at that funeral. 2) God moments remind us to pay attention. 3) The February 6 handout (How do your daily habits reveal your faith and values?) has good questions to ask at the end of every day. Her family has posted on their door. 4) Lent calls for a sacrificial change in routine. What are some of the things we have done for Lent? Giving up chocolate – or exercise (Paul)

- Adding a daily devotion while still working. Vicki found that even though she didn’t succeed 100%, it was a good learning experience.
- Giving up sweets – and recognizing a bit late that a McDonald’s milkshake is a sweet.
- “Cheating” on Sundays (Ed) – Sundays are little Easters and not part of Lent.
- No meat on Good Friday as a child – something that puzzled Betty and Diane.
- Going to fish fries.
- Giving up pie – Jim was held accountable to his pie-baking Grandma
- Giving up a morning and afternoon diet Coke (Ed) at work

5) How might our ideas of doing something for Lent change if we do something that really requires a sacrifice rather than being merely an inconvenience? Ideas:

- Give up time to help someone else.
- Add something to our routine to benefit someone else.
- Give up a car, cell phone, coffee, indoor plumbing, heat
- Offer a spare bedroom to someone needing a place to stay.

6) Eric Zuker spent a summer in Nicaragua helping communities solve water problems. The locals collected water in rain barrels. One man had sympathy for Eric because Michigan has cold winters. “It must be tough showering with such cold water during the winter,” he said.

7) Betty’s grandson, Alex, was visiting from California. She told him he should let the water run a minute so it could get cold. He asked if it was actually okay to do that as it was not acceptable in California due to the drought.

March 20, 2022: “Worship and Bow Down”

Lent 3

Scripture: Psalm 95 (The Message)

¹⁻² 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!

3-5 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!

6-7 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.

7-11 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.’”

This is in fact a
reference to Moses
and his people
wandering in the
wilderness for forty
years.

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> **Comments:** Don't like the flashing and loud noise. Would be most appropriate as a service opener.
- “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: 1) Brad Hilleary just used Psalm 95 when he preached on worship as part of the January 2022 series, *The Walk*. He reminded us that worship is a full body, full heart experience. 2) Worship wars: Complaints of not “getting fed” in worship miss the mark. We should be asking what we bring to worship – praise, thanksgiving, and sacrifice. 3) What elements of worship are most meaningful to you? Music. The pastor. Challenging messages. God moments. Being together in the sanctuary. Communion. The ritual of kneeling at the rail to receive communion. Candle lighting.

Communion discussion points: Pastor Mary thinks this is a good time to transition from solely using the prepackaged elements to returning to a common loaf and little cups and the prepackaged elements. People miss the symbolism of one loaf, even if it is pita bread (doesn’t crumble so much). We can offer gluten free wafers for those who need that option. Think about how we handle in-person communion and how that works on the livestream. Last year’s Both& webinar suggested that we need to think about how long communion takes. Should we end the livestream before communion rather? How many online worshippers will stick around during communion unless something very engaging is happening? Links to the Both& webinar have expired, but it is worth reviewing the questions on pages 6 and 8 of the webinar’s handbook (https://bit.ly/BOTH_AND_HANDBOOK_DL). Big question: How does communion translate on screen at home and do we need an alternate moment?

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.

2 You let me rest in fields of green grass.

You lead me to streams of peaceful water,

3 and you refresh my life.

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

4 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.

5 You treat me to a feast, while my enemies watch.

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

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

Our shepherd puts our feet on the right path for his name’s sake so we can reflect the good nature of God to other people

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. **Comments:** We like this as a handout on a half-page and as a responsive reading.

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); *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart* (UMH 629)

Children’s Time:

Social media:

Discussion points: 1) Pastor Mary’s question: Why is Psalm 23 important to you? Replies: It speaks to us in life and death. We learned it by heart as a kid. It is a source of comfort. Some translations (like the CEV) seem more comforting than others and if it is read at my funeral, I want this one (Betty – who will add that note to her, “I’m Dead. Now What?” book). It is an invitation to trust God. 2) Psalm 23 only makes sense if you know something about sheep and shepherding. Sheep are dumb. Without a shepherd, they would wander off and die. The role of a shepherd is to lead, protect (setting boundaries – see image of the shepherd and gate, right), and correct the sheep (staff and rod). Jesus calls us sheep, which isn’t a compliment. *Loosely related sidenote:* It is still better to be called sheep than goats. 3) Jim Grace has pictures of shepherds from his time in Africa with the Peace Corps in 1976. We can use them.



April 3, 2022: “Out of the Depths”

Lent 5

Rev. Kim Bos preaching

Scripture: Psalm 130 (The Message)

¹⁻² Help, GOD—I’ve hit rock bottom! Master, hear my cry for help!
Listen hard! Open your ears! Listen to my cries for mercy.

³⁻⁴ 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.

⁵⁻⁶ 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.

⁷⁻⁸ 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> **Comments:** We like this clever video. It is a keeper. Use it.
- “Psalm 130 – Cinematic Interpretation.” Length: 2:02. Cost: Free. Web license: Not 100% sure. Part of a continuing series taking the Psalms of the Bible and pairing the with cinematic visuals. This was shot in Denver, Colorado.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NgYOKsJt6DY>

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: This might be a good week for a special time of intercessory and healing prayer. The Both/& webinar would suggest that we consider if the livestream should end before the time of communion and prayer begins.

April 10, 2022: “A Palm Road and Broken Pottery”

Palm Sunday

2nd Scripture: Luke 19: 28-40 (NIV) “Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King”

²⁸ After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰ “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. ³¹ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’”

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

³⁴ They replied, “The Lord needs it.”

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

³⁷ 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:

³⁸ “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

⁴⁰ “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

1st 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.
² Let all Israel repeat: “His faithful love endures forever.”
¹⁹ Open for me the gates where the righteous enter, and I will go in and thank the LORD.
²⁰ These gates lead to the presence of the LORD, and the godly enter there.
²¹ I thank you for answering my prayer and giving me victory!
²² The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.
²³ This is the LORD’s doing, and it is wonderful to see.
²⁴ This is the day the LORD has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.
²⁵ Please, LORD, please save us. Please, LORD, please give us success.
²⁶ Bless the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.
²⁷ The LORD is God, shining upon us. Take the sacrifice and bind it with cords on the altar.
²⁸ You are my God, and I will praise you! You are my God, and I will exalt you!
²⁹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.

3rd Scripture: Psalm 31: 9-16 (Common English Bible)

⁹ Have mercy on me, LORD, because I’m depressed.
 My vision fails because of my grief, as do my spirit and my body.
¹⁰ My life is consumed with sadness; my years are consumed with groaning.
 Strength fails me because of my suffering; my bones dry up.
¹¹ 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!
¹² I am forgotten, like I’m dead, completely out of mind;
 I am like a piece of pottery, destroyed. ← Verse 12: Powerful, poetic imagery
¹³ Yes, I’ve heard all the gossiping, terror all around;
 so many gang up together against me, they plan to take my life!
¹⁴ But me? I trust you, LORD! I affirm, “You are my God.” ← Verse 14: TRUST
¹⁵ My future is in your hands. Don’t hand me over to my enemies,
 to all who are out to get me!
¹⁶ 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> **Comments:** Very powerful illustration of trust. Use it.

- "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: 1) We will follow our "traditional" Palm Sunday pattern of beginning worship with palms and moving toward the passion. 2) Order of reading: Psalm 118, Luke, Psalm 31. 2) Mudgi remembers Jimmy Epplert's portrayal of Judas in the drama, "A Tale of Two Friends," which we have used at the end of worship on Palm Sunday. Patrick Miles probably played Peter. Jim Post and Ken Luckett have played Judas and Peter too.

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.

² I'll call out to him as long as I live,
because he listens closely to me.

³ Death's ropes bound me;
the distress of the grave found me—
I came face-to-face with trouble and grief.

⁴ So I called on the LORD's name:
"LORD, please save me!"

¹² What can I give back to the LORD
for all the good things he has done for me?

¹³ I'll lift up the cup of salvation.
I'll call on the LORD's name.

¹⁴ I'll keep the promises I made to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people.

¹⁵ The death of the LORD's faithful
is a costly loss in his eyes.

¹⁶ 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.
¹⁷ So I'll offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to you,
and I'll call on the LORD's name.
¹⁸ I'll keep the promises I made to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people,
¹⁹ 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)

¹⁻³ 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.

⁴⁻⁷ 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.

⁸⁻⁹ 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.

¹⁰ GOD, give grace, get me up on my feet. I'll show them a thing or two.
¹¹⁻¹² 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.
¹³ 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, finger food potluck meal before worship

Media possibilities:

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

Children's Time:

Social media:

Discussion points: 1) There is a temptation to not engage Holy Week and skip right to Easter. 2)

Jim: All humanity knows the heartbreak of betrayal. We can imagine how Jesus felt knowing he would be betrayed. 3) Jesus showed all of the love languages, especially acts of service, like footwashing. The others are words of affirmation, receiving gifts, quality time, and physical touch. 4) Consider taking turns washing feet. 5) **Prayer Vigil:** Runs from 8:30 pm Thursday until 11:00 am Friday in the sanctuary. Make it clear that the sign-up sheet is for people who will be physically present in the sanctuary. That wasn't clear last year; some people signed up to pray from home and candles were left burning and unattended. More than one person can pray at any given time. We need night watchmen.

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*

April 17, 2022: "This Is THE Day"

Easter Sunday

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

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

² Let Israel say it: "God's faithful love lasts forever!"

¹⁴ The LORD was my strength and protection; he was my saving help!

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

¹⁶ The LORD's strong hand is ready to strike! The LORD's strong hand is victorious!"

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

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

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

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

²¹ I thank you because you answered me, because you were my saving help.

²² The stone rejected by the builders is now the main foundation stone!

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

²⁴ 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"

²⁴ ¹⁻³ 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.

⁴⁻⁸ 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.

⁹⁻¹¹ 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.

¹² 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 at around 7:15 am.

Discussion points: 1) Easter is the day when the promise of resurrection becomes a reality and Good News is shared. 2) Pastor Mary likes Luke's version of the resurrection better than the others because of verses 10-11: *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.* 3) It would be nice if there was a bit more time between the sunrise service and the rest of the services for an Easter breakfast. 4) Would we consider adding real flowers on Easter? Yes. Allergy sufferers appreciate flowers with less pollen and scents, i.e., skip the lilies and hyacinths and use daffodils and tulips if possible. Issues to consider: Keeping the flowers watered. Asking people to wait to take them home after both services are over.