

Signs of Lent

Lent 2010

*Sand, Wind, Water, Earth,
Rock, Tree, Light*

Lent is a season of encountering the holy in the world in which we live. It is a time to sharpen our senses to the God who is revealed to us in the midst of the common, ordinary experiences of our life. All around us are the signs of God's presence, made known in the very elements of life we so often take for granted: *Sand, Wind, Water, Earth, Rock, Tree & Light*. But by the Spirit's power these common elements mediate to us the very richness and power of God's life and power.

During this season of 40 days we will explore these *Signs of Lent*, drawing on the witness of scripture and seven works of art. The deep beauty of each visual image will challenge us to dive beneath the surface of our ordinary encounters with the world in order that we might see it with new eyes ~ eyes that are freshly opened to God's power and presence.

Join us during this season of prayer and penitence as it beckons us to richer ways of seeing and knowing, transforming our understanding of God's powerful presence in the world . . . and in our lives.

Worship Schedule

During each of the first five Sundays of Lent our focus will be on one of the Signs of Lent. Other highlights of the Lenten Season will include special services of worship on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, as well as a meaningful Service of Worship on Passion/Palm Sunday.

February 17: Ash Wednesday ~ Worship @ 6:00 P.M.

Texts: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10; Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21

Sermon: *Ashes*

Other Elements: Imposition of Ashes; Holy Communion; Prayer Vigil, 3 – 6 P.M.

February 21: 1st Sunday of Lent

Texts: Genesis 2:15-17 & 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon: *Sand*

February 28: 2nd Sunday of Lent

Texts: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

Sermon: *Wind*

March 7: 3rd Sunday of Lent

Texts: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

Sermon: *Water*

Other Elements: Holy Communion

March 14: 4th Sunday of Lent

Texts: I Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Sermon: *Earth*

Other Elements: One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering

March 21: 5th Sunday of Lent

Texts: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

Sermon: *Rock*

March 28: Passion/Palm Sunday

Texts: Matthew 21:1-11 (Palms); Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11; and Matthew 26:14-27:66 (Passion)

Message: *The Cry of the Congregation Passion Drama*

Other Elements: Palm Processional

April 1: Maundy Thursday ~ Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

Texts: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; I Cor. 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Message: *Bread & Basin*

Other Elements: Holy Communion

April 2: Good Friday ~ Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

Texts: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42

Sermon: *Tree*

Other Elements: Prayer Vigil @ 5:00 p.m.

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Prayer and Devotion

HOME DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Each and every household is invited to utilize the Home Devotional Guides based on the *Signs of Lent* for daily prayer and meditation. Fifty copies will be made available on the Narthex tables, beginning Sunday, February 14th. The Guides will also be used as the basis for the Tuesday evening Lenten Study (see below).

ASH WEDNESDAY TIME OF PRAYER AND MEDITATION ~ February 17th

The Sanctuary will be open between the hours of 4:00 & 5:45 p.m. for anyone wishing to mark their personal entrance into Lent through prayer and meditation. Printed guides for meditation and prayer will be available for those wishing to use them and anyone wishing to do so may also receive Holy Communion or participate in the Rite of the Imposition of Ashes.

GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER VIGIL ~ April 2nd

Those wanting to pray and meditate on Good Friday, the day we remember the suffering and death of our Lord, may do so in the Sanctuary between the hours of 5:00 and 6:45 p.m. Printed devotional guides will be made available for those who wish to use them.

Offerings for Study

Lenten Studies for ADULTS

The Signs of Lent is an adult study for persons wanting to explore more deeply the scripture passages to be used on the Sundays of Lent and Easter, as well as to join with Pastors Paul & John in exploring images and ideas to be used during the Sunday morning sermons to be preached during this season. The class will use the Devotional Guides for each Sunday which will be placed on the tables in the Narthex as well as focusing on the art work which will deepen and inform our understandings of the scriptural themes and texts. The study will begin on Tuesday, February 16th, and will continue to meet each Tuesday evening through March 30th. Each class will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will meet in the Temple Teachings Room (#204), 2nd Floor of the Education Building

Lenten Studies for CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Tuesday Evenings, February 23 – March 30, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Children: Room 205, Activities and discussion with Pastor Patte

Youth: Youth Room, *Questions of Faith* with Stacey, Meredith and Keegan



Lent 2010

Fellowship Meals

Ash Wednesday Family Meal

February 17 at 5:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Free-will Offering will be received

Tuesday Evening Family Meals

February 23 – March 30 from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Soup and Sandwich Suppers
Free-will Offering received each week

Seder Meal

March 30 at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
A traditional Passover Meal

Giving and Service

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERING ~ March 14th

On Sunday, March 14th, the One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering will be received. In light of the recent earthquake in Haiti as well as in those other places of our world that are being confronted by natural and human-made disasters, this offering calls the church to share the goodness of life with those who are hurting through its support of the ministries of the United Methodist Committee on Relief. UMCOR seeks to bring hope, relief from suffering caused by natural and human disasters, and to teach peace. Your generous support is most appreciated.

CONGREGATION-WIDE "SPRING WORK DAY" ~ April 2nd

A Work Day will be held at the church on Saturday, April 2nd, beginning at 9:00 a.m., with opportunities to share in landscaping and planting work outside as well as deep-cleaning inside to prepare the church for our celebration of Easter. Watch for more details as they are made known.

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