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The Season of Lent

A. D. 2016

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The Journey to Jerusalem

The Journey to the Heart

Fellow Travelers,

Lent has been a most interesting journey for me. When we began this journey at Trinity UMC, I advocated not the giving up of something – though this may well prove fruitful – but the taking on of the spiritual practice of Sabbath. The pastoral idea continues to be that if we do not make space in our lives for God, we may acquire the outward trappings of religion without the inward grace of life with God. I have found in these busy weeks that keeping the Sabbath is not something I’m used to, nor something at which I’m particularly proficient. What I have discovered is that I cannot undo a lifetime of spiritual malpractice in 40 days. So where do we go from here?

It seems that the most fruitful Lenten practices are not those which have for their punctuation that self-congratulatory moment when we check “participating in Lent” off our list. Rather, fruitful practices are those which begin to reshape our former lives into the life of discipleship – for good. The idea of Sanctification is not something our religious culture focuses on very much, perhaps because Sanctification requires us to change. This is worrisome, however because it is the very content of the vision cast by the Good News that the “kingdom is at hand”:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.”

Revelation 21:1-5 (NSRV)

The point is, Grace comes to find us where we are, but never leaves us there. In my homily on Palm Sunday (trinityumcmemphis.org/sermons), I reiterated a statement made by my own pastor, the Rev. Dr. David Lowes Watson, some years ago at West End UMC in Nashville: "There is no prerequisite for grace; but there *is* a post-requisite!" Simply, the gift of grace is meant to be *used* and comes with a user's guide: a little anthology otherwise known as the New Testament. Sanctification is what is revealed in Jesus himself; Sanctification is that journey toward life to which Jesus calls us. At the heart of this eternal work of love we find the spiritual practice of Sabbath.

But now more than ever the word about Jesus spread abroad; many crowds would gather to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. But he would withdraw to deserted places and pray.

Luke 5:15-16

So where do we go from here? Confident in God's everlasting life: We take up the crosses the world will present to us when we do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly along side he who is the "pioneer and perfecter of our faith." We continue seeking for the Sabbath of the LORD in the midst of the chaos of this life: we seek the order necessary for created life from the source of living water – the very heart of God. We use what we've learned: that the season of Lent, in the year of our LORD 2016, has not been a parentheses or a culmination or an intellectual query, but the beginning of something new – for that which has been defiled and wounded by Evil is passing away. We remain in perpetual remembrance that God is the audience for every moment of our lives.... Or as St. Paul says...

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Fear no darkness, dear friends, for the Living God is with us and holds up a lamp before us on the way of salvation, the way that leads to life. Blessed be our God forever for this grace!

the Rev. Jonathan Bratt Carle
Pastor

Dancers, Inc. is getting ready for their spring show
Dance Scholars, Inc.
"Open House Performance" Sat. May 14, 2016.
At Southwest Tenn. Community College Theatre-Union
Campus-434 Union Ave. 38103
We hope you will come and see us! Tickets in Advance
\$10./\$8. Adults/Children
901 301-3262
Group Tickets 15 or more \$7/4. Alive music: Classical,
Contemporary to Jazz.
Sponsors: Orpheum Foundation &
Tennessee Arts Commission.



VBS at Trinity
June 13th-17th
from 9a.m.-12 noon

For more information, call the church office at:
(901)274-6895
or visit our website
cokesburyvbs.com/trinityumcmemphis
www.trinityumcmemphis.org

Scan me with your smart
phone to go right to our
registration page.



Mark Your Calendars!

Trinity Spring Market and Bazaar, Saturday
June 4th on the grounds of the Education
Building. Get your stuff together!
For information call Chris Glover at 358-7201
or
Susan Hall at 491-1791

✠ *Prayer List* ✠



Pat Lovington	Peggy Tate
Marie Park & Family	Frances Skinner
George Guntharp	Laura Hartmann
Nancy Scott	Pam Santirojprapai
Frances Lloyd	Shirley Skjoldager
Gwen Stuart	Randy Bruce
Carol Raiford	Nancy & Rod Maddox

Upcoming



- ◆ Tuesday Morning Prayer and Communion in Chapel, 8:00 a.m.
- ◆ Wednesday Bible Study in Conference Room, 12:00 noon in the Edu. Building.
- ◆ The first Monday of each month is reserved for Trustee Meeting in the Conference Room of the Education Building at 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ The second Monday of each month is reserved for SPPRC meeting in the Conference Room of the Education Building at 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ The third Monday of each month is reserved for the Evening Circle to meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30p.m.
- ◆ Highland Heights Luncheon is on every 3rd Monday of each month, at Highland Heights UMC. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at HHUMC to help.
- ◆ The fourth Monday of each month is reserved for Church Council Meeting in the fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m.

UMW UPDATE:

DAYTIME CIRCLE MEETING APRIL 5TH 10:30 AM
Lesson by Elaine Amis continuing our study on Latin America.
Devotional by Gwen Owen.
Please bring any news you have read on countries we have studied previously.
Remember the sunshine fund and Campbell soup labels.
We will have lunch out--location to be decided.

UMW Evening Circle

The Evening Circle will meet on Monday, April 18th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share, and a can, a box, or a dollar for the UMNC. We'd be delighted to have some visitors.



CHOIR NEWS: A Music Note



Dear All,

Thank you so much for your hard work to present such a lovely cantata on Palm Sunday. It was well received and very meaningful to all in attendance.

Special thanks to our wonderful soloists, Jeri, Marc, Alicia and Jonathan on their duets. Thanks also to Diana and Jeanne for sharing their talents once again. Our narrators were poised and professional. Lastly, thanks to Alicia for leading us so impressively and Jonathan for his work to put the entire cantata together!

Blessings,
Lisa

April 2016



The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.

Song of Solomon 2:12

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8:30 a.m. Faith Walking 2:00-8:00 p.m. Dancers Inc in Fellowship Hall (Dance floor will be down no street shoes allowed) 7:00 p.m. NA	2 8:30a.m.-5:30 p.m. Dancers Inc in Fellowship Hall (Dance floor will be down no street shoes allowed) 7:00 p.m. NA
3 9:15 a.m. First Sunday Fellowship Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 10:55 Worship Service 3:00 p.m. Cub Scouts	4 8:30 a.m. Faith Walking 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. Trustees in Conference Room	5 8:00 a.m. Prayer & Holy Communion in Chapel 10:30 a.m. UMW in Fellowship Hall 12:00 noon Care Team Meeting in Conference Room	6 8:30 a.m. Faith Walking 12:00 noon Bible Study Conference room in Edu. Bld. 1:30 p.m. Story Tellers in Fellowship Hall 6:30 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. NA	7 7:00 p.m. NA	8 8:30 a.m. Faith Walking 7:00 p.m. NA	9 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Pack 13 Hosting District Pine Wood Derby in Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m. NA
10 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:55 Worship Service 3:00 p.m. Cub Scouts	11 TriNotes Deadline 8:30 a.m. Faith Walking 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. SPPRC in Conference Room	12 8:00 a.m. Prayer & Holy Communion in Chapel 12:00 noon Bible Study Conference room in Edu. Bld. 6:30 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. NA	13 TriNotes Mailed Out 8:30 a.m. Faith Walking 12:00 noon Bible Study Conference room in Edu. Bld. 6:30 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. NA	14 7:00 p.m. NA	15 <i>Tax Day</i> 8:30 a.m. Faith Walking 7:00 p.m. NA	16 7:00 p.m. NA
17 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:55 Worship Service 3:00 p.m. Cub Scouts	18 8:30 a.m. Faith Walking 9:00 a.m. Mana On Mondays Luncheon at HHUMC 6:30 p.m. Evening Circle in Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	19 8:00 a.m. Prayer & Holy Communion in Chapel 10:30 a.m. UMW in Fellowship Hall 12:00 noon Care Team Meeting in Conference Room	20 8:30 a.m. Faith Walking 12:00 noon Bible Study Conference room in Edu. Bld. 6:30 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. NA	21 7:00 p.m. NA	22 8:30 a.m. Faith Walking 7:00 p.m. NA	23 7:00 p.m. NA
24 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:55 Worship Service 3:00 p.m. Cub Scouts	25 TriNotes Deadline 8:30 a.m. Faith Walking 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. Church Counsel in Fellowship Hall	26 8:00 a.m. Prayer & Holy Communion in Chapel 6:30 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. NA	27 TriNotes Mailed Out 8:30 a.m. Faith Walking 12:00 noon Bible Study Conference room in Edu. Bld. 6:30 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. NA	28 7:00 p.m. NA	29 8:30 a.m. Faith Walking 7:00 p.m. NA	30 7:00 p.m. NA