

March 26, 2021

Dear Friends,

I take you gently by the shoulders, look you square in the eye and say, "Do not lose heart." I get the impression that some people are running out of steam in a greater way these days. It seems to go in waves. There is a lot to be sad - even angry - about. Good news seems hard to come by.

Sunday Online Worship Gathering at 10 a.m.

Yet Good News is calling out to us. As we make our way into holy week, please participate in any and every opportunity available to you to notice the person and message of our Lord Jesus Christ this week.

As I prepare for this Palm and Passion Sunday, I am deeply moved by him. He shows us that God isn't who we might have thought. Lauded as the people's saviour, Jesus rides into Jerusalem in his final week of life not on a warhorse, but on a young donkey.

His humble and outside-of-the-box way prevails. He takes on the Jerusalem religious establishment. The word religion derives from a Latin word 'religare' meaning 'to bind.' To be truly religious is to be bound to God. That is a beautiful thing! Jesus was livid about the distorted version of religion in his day which blocked people from God, making polishing up and measuring up requirements for God access. What a load of crock!

Listen carefully this week as we hear how close God is to our plight and how invested he is in our freedom. In Mark chapter 15 we will hear the story of Jesus' suffering. He endured layer upon layer of pain all the way to death because he will not stand for anything that cuts people out of God's story.

Please [contact me](#) for a Zoom link to the service.

*Please join the Zoom meeting after 9:30 a.m. to avoid problems entering.

For this week's scripture readings and other announcements, go to [Sunday's bulletin](#).

Sunday School for grades 4-6 (March 28 at 11:15 a.m.)

Please [contact our pastor of family ministries](#) for a link to 'send' your child to Sunday School (grades 4-6) at 11:15 a.m.

Tuesday Prayer Team (March 30 at 11:30 a.m.)

You are welcome to [share a prayer need](#) with the prayer team. They meet each Tuesday at 11:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Zoom Prayer (April 1, 8-9:15 p.m.)

As we make our way to the cross, hear our Lord Jesus' invitation to his disciples to watch and pray (Mark 14:32-42). All are strongly encouraged to participate in this hour. Please [email me](#) for a link to join the prayer gathering at 8 p.m. We will divide up into smaller groups, guided by the prayer that Jesus taught us. Thank you to Pastor Miranda for organizing this service and for preparing [a prayer guide](#) which may also be used in your personal prayer times.

Good Friday In-Person Gatherings (April 2, 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m.)

I ask you to do everything you can to join the worshipping community in person as we remember the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is an important time of prayer and hearing Jesus' story, being led in worship through music with opportunity to respond to God's self-giving love. Many have already registered. If you have not, please [register here](#) as soon as possible for one of three services. At the time of writing, 53 people have registered between the three services, and we have room for around 97 more with a great deal of space in the 1 p.m. service (but plenty also in the other two).

Please [contact the church office](#) by April 1 if you wish to attend by Zoom; you will receive a link to the 10 a.m. service.

I end my letter with these words from the Apostle Paul: a reminder that what comes around goes around. "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."

(2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

With love and prayers,

Pastor Kerry Kronberg (with the whole team)