



## Praying with Scripture During Lent

(from the *Presbyterian Outlook's* Lent 2021 Devotional)

As a Lenten devotional discipline this year, you are invited to pray with Scripture as a way of discerning what God is calling you to be and to do during this season. *(The full PDF will be emailed to the congregation.)*



John Calvin spoke of the Bible as the “lens of faith,” likening it to a pair of eyeglasses that enables us to see the world with clearer vision as God’s creation. As theologian Serene Jones notes in “Inhabiting Scripture, Dreaming Bible” (a chapter in “Engaging Biblical Authority”), this was Calvin’s way of saying that Scripture “brings clarity and focus to all aspects of our lives” and “lets us see what we otherwise would not.” In short, once we have these eyeglasses on, “there is nothing, absolutely nothing, that escapes their vision-framing power.”

### PRACTICES:

- **Scripture as prayer:**

One of the ways we can “put on” Scripture is by praying or meditating contemplatively on a biblical text — slowly and contemplatively reading it as a prayer to God. Indeed, this is an ancient and robust practice of prayer. When we pray with Scripture, we ponder deeply the words and images of the text. Using our imaginations, we can even enter into the world of the text in order to discern God’s wisdom.

- **Movement of God:**

Praying with Scripture in this way can be an aid – a focusing lens – to help us discern the movement of God in our personal lives and in the life of the world around us. Throughout the season of Lent, you are invited to pray with one passage from Scripture each day and to reflect on what it is disclosing to you about movement toward God and movement away from God in your life.

- **Prayer journal:**

You may find it helpful to keep a journal in which you briefly note what surfaces in your prayer time, so that over the course of the Lenten journey you can track the movements of God’s Spirit in your midst. Also, consider a prayer focus of the week as you journal and pray.

- **Bringing the Bible and hymns to life:**

Each week, choose a hymn or worship and reflection. During your devotional time each day, read the words (or sing or play the hymn!) and reflect on the truths the text reveals to you. (If you don’t have a hymnal, you can Google the hymn or visit [hymnary.org](http://hymnary.org).) Likewise, consider an action each day and note how the Spirit nudges you to fulfill it.

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## March 2021 Lenten Worship Schedule

In-person and on Facebook Live at 11:00am Sundays; Posted on YouTube Mondays

### Sunday, March 7

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent, Communion*

“To Jerusalem: Consider the Sign of Jonah”

### Sunday, March 14

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent*

“To Jerusalem: Consider the Cost”

(Note: Daylight Saving Time begins today)

### Sunday, March 21

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent*

“To Jerusalem: Consider God’s Sight”

### Sunday, March 28

*Palm Sunday*

“Blessed is the One Who Comes in the Name of the Lord”

## Looking Ahead to Holy Week

### *Lenten Prayer Vigil*

Maundy Thursday, April 1 from 9:00AM-2:00PM

Our sanctuary will be open and available for individual prayer and meditation. Sign up for 30-minute slots by either calling or emailing the Church Office.

### *Good Friday Worship*

Friday, April 2 at 7:00PM in the Sanctuary

We will begin with communion in honor of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday before moving into the events leading up to and including the death of Jesus on the cross. The service will be live streamed on Facebook as well for those who choose to worship from home.

### *Easter Sunday*

Sunday, April 4 at 11:00AM in the Sanctuary

We celebrate the resurrection of Christ, share in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and proclaim "He is Risen!" Pastor Tony will preach from 1 Corinthians 15:1-8.



"When the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined to go to Jerusalem," (Luke 9.51). Of the 24 chapters of Luke's gospel, 14 are devoted to the final days of Jesus's earthly life. Within those chapters (10-23), Jesus prays and teaches the disciples how to pray (11.1-13), heals a man suffering from dropsy (14.1-6), challenges the following crowd, and the disciples, to the cost of following Him (14.25-35), confronts the Pharisees on numerous occasions, heals 10 lepers (16.11-19), foretells His second coming (17.22-37), teaches in parables (18.1-34), and offers salvation to a chief tax collector (19.1-10). All of this, and more, occur as Jesus makes His way to Jerusalem – for He was determined to get there.

That He was "determined" is best expressed "He steadfastly set His face." Luke wants readers to know Jesus would not be deterred from reaching His destination (Luke 12.22; 17.11; 18.31; 19.11; 19.28). The trajectory to Jerusalem had been prophesied by the Isaiah centuries before (Isaiah 50.7) and the significance of it all is worth noting. Humanity was and continues to be in a state of separation and, if you will, in a state of war with God as the result of sin. No relationship exists between the two due to the human fraction of disobedience and self-pride. In the Triune God's infinite grace, God sees fit to send God the Son to reconcile humanity back to the Father (2 Corinthians 5.14-19). At the appropriate time, God



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*Believing we are  
called together  
by God's love  
through Jesus Christ,  
our mission as the  
First Presbyterian Church  
of Edgewood  
is to love God,  
to love each other,  
and to love our neighbors.*

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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**LOVE GOD  
EACH OTHER  
OUR NEIGHBORS**

the Son incarnates in human flesh to reveal the character and nature of the Godhead. Within that revelation a mission is to be accomplished – reach Jerusalem and become the ultimate Passover Lamb that takes away the sin of the world (John 1.29). Jesus knows what is up ahead – how He will be treated, insulted, assaulted, and tortured. Yet, Jesus never flinches; His prayer to the Father in Gethsemane is not a prayer of “second thoughts” but a prayer recognizing that He is about to touch something totally foreign to Him – sin. “[The Father] made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf. . .” For what reason? “. . .So that we might become the righteousness of God in Him,” (2 Corinthians 5.21).

Jesus Christ reached Jerusalem.

Mission accomplished.

God’s grace and peace be with you.



## Session Notes

At their February 9, 2021 Zoom meeting, Session:

- Reviewed the list of Session committees, their chairs, and members.
- Approved a Celebration of Life ceremony for Doris Hamilton to be held on June 26, 2021.
- Heard Rev. Rivera’s report for January 2021.

## Stewardship Update

Per Capita is the tie that binds us together with other Presbyterians. Thanks be to God! Last year, FPCE members demonstrated excellent participation. Presbyterians have used per capita—an annual per member apportionment assessed by the General Assembly (*Book of Order*, G-3.0106; see also Standing Rule F.4.b.), and by many synods and presbyteries, to enable Presbyterians mutually and equitably to share the ecclesiastical and administrative costs of sustaining our witness to Christ—as a sign of the covenant that binds us together. General Assembly per capita is the primary source of funding for the Office of the General Assembly and makes possible numerous services on which Presbyterians depend, including the biennial meeting of the General Assembly. **2021 Per Capita is \$35 per member.**



## Worship Committee News

The Worship Committee has approved the 2021 Communion dates. We have also purchased prepackaged communion sets for use on a trial basis and to have for home visits. These kits are available to pick up at FPCE (basket by side door...just buzz door bell) to take home for those watching services/communion on YouTube or Facebook. We welcome your comments.

An outdoor worship service is tentatively scheduled for Sunday June 13, 2021, weather permitting. We hope to have sunshine, the worship/praise band and soloists join Shaun and Sunny for our music.

## Christian Education

CE is going strong with weekly prayer meetings, book group and bible study.

On 3/2/21, the Tuesday Morning Book Group is starting a new Lenten study of Lamentations led by Sallie Monk. We meet at 10:00 am via zoom. All our invited. This would be a great time to join us.



***Don't forget to "spring ahead" on March 14<sup>th</sup>!***



First Presbyterian Church of  
**EDGEWOOD**  
*The Community Church*  
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## EASTER FLOWERS

We seek your help in making our sanctuary a place of graceful beauty and meaning on Easter morning. Through your donation, we can accomplish this:

I wish to contribute an Easter plant.      Lily \_\_\_\_      Tulip \_\_\_\_      Daffodil \_\_\_\_      Hyacinth \_\_\_\_

The wording for the bulletin is:

\_\_ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_ In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Order placed by \_\_\_\_\_

Please check:       I would like to take the plant  
                            I would like it to be planted in the Prayer Garden



The cost of each plant is \$8.00. Please send check (payable to FPCE or pay online at [fpcedgewood.org/donate](http://fpcedgewood.org/donate)) with form and return it to the Church Office. Deadline is March 29, 2021.