

The Pastor's Pen

March 2015

It has been one long hard winter. God's beautiful creation is so serene when it is covered in white. This cold and snowy winter helps us appreciate the dog days of summer and causes us to embrace every sunny day of spring and summer. This long winter gives in to the season of Lent.

On the last Sunday of March we will rejoice in the excitement of Palm Sunday. The season of repentance, consecration and sacrifice ends in a wonderful celebration of the day our Savior rode his donkey into the city of Jerusalem beginning the week of the Passion which fulfills the prophecies of the coming of the Messiah.

Our music department along with our Fine Arts Ministry is putting together a very moving and inspiring event of the likes we have not seen in a Holy Week service. This is going to be something very special. We are pleased to announce the presentation of the cantata ***Colors of Grace***, a cantata by Joseph M. Martin that will be performed on Good Friday.

This beautiful cantata clearly expresses the message of God's love for us. *"During the Holy Week, the last of days of Christ are often characterized with words like suffering and darkness. Taking a closer look, however, can see suffering and darkness where, in fact, instruments of great joy and light."*

From Thursday evening's Passover meal through Friday's dark hours on the cross, the light of Christ continued to illuminate the Truth. With intense clarity, our Savior was showing us by example the greatest lessons of this ministry: service, obedience, humility, and forgiveness. Through Christ, the full spectrum of God's grace is reflected in the beautiful hues upon our lives.

In the suffering of this Holy Week, find joy. In its darkness, see Light "For Light still shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it," This is the power of Christ's grace and the source of great joy.

There will not be a Maunday Thursday service. That service is combined in the message and story that are told in this cantata. Mark your calendar now and begin inviting your friends and neighbors for this great time of remembering what Christ has done for us.

Invitation tickets are available for you to use as tool to invite people to come. See any member of the choir or the Merrily in the church office for a supply of tickets.

We will be having our Easter Sunrise service on April 5 at 6 AM at Old Center Church and our Easter Sunday service at 10:00 a.m. This is a special time of the year. It is a time to renew, invigorate our faith and consecrate ourselves to the plan and purposes of God.

We are pleased to announce that we are receiving 8 new members on Palm Sunday.

Don't forget to watch the rebroadcast of our Sunday service each Thursday on the Local Access cable channel 8. May God's rich blessing continue to flow to you during this season of Lent. I look forward to seeing you at church.

Yours in His Service,
Pastor Cal