

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



[Jesus] came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.”

-Luke 22:39-40

“Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

-Matthew 26:41

As we read this, we have just entered the period of time liturgically known as *The Triduum* – meaning, “The Three Days.” *The Triduum* consists of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter (Saturday). Taken collectively, these three days remind us of the passion and death of Jesus, and hold us in a time of remembering and preparing as await Easter morning. We’re familiar with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, but I wanted to share more with you about the Great Vigil of Easter.

From the PC(USA) *Book of Common Worship*, the Great Vigil is actually a collection of four ‘mini-services’ which begin at nightfall on Saturday evening: The Service of Light, The Service of Readings, The Service of Baptism, and The Service of The Eucharist. A brief description of each service follows:

*The Service of Light* “begins in the darkness of night. In kindling new fire...we are reminded that Christ came as light shining in the darkness,” and that we become, again, “the pilgrim people of God following the ‘pillar of fire’ given to us in Jesus Christ.” Even in the darkness, as we wait and watch in grief, we are reminded of the Light that shines.

*The Service of Readings* “provide a panoramic view of what God has done for humanity...The readings thus retell our ‘holy history’ as God’s children, summarizing the faith into which we are baptized.” We begin in Genesis and recount the mighty presence of God in the world and for the world, moving up through the Old Testament to the narrative story of Christ.

*The Service of Baptism* reminds us of the role and power of water to bring both life and death, and in remembering our baptism (as well as celebrating those

receiving baptism for the first time), we remember that we are given Life in Christ. “...for in Baptism we die to sin and are raised to life. Baptism unites believers to Christ’s death and resurrection.”

*The Service of The Eucharist* is the joyful climax of the Vigil, as we celebrate the feast of the people of God at the Table prepared for us by Christ. “The risen Lord invites all to participate in the new life he brings by sharing the feast which he has prepared.” In so doing, our eyes are also cast forward in time to the fullness of Christ’s return and the Messianic feast that is to come.

The *Book of Common Worship* concludes its description of the Great Vigil by stating, “The vigil thus celebrates what God has done, is doing, and will do.”

As we move through *The Triduum*, I invite you to, likewise, celebrate what God has done, is doing, and will do. As we join our hearts and spirits in Maundy Thursday (remembering Jesus’ celebration of the Passover and subsequent betrayal, arrest, and trial), Good Friday (bearing witness to Jesus’ death on the cross), and hopeful watching in the Vigil, may we indeed recognize God at work, and joyfully give ourselves over to this work, as well. May you be richly blessed, indeed!

The list of services (for those who feel comfortable joining) and readings (for those who wish to worship alone this year) are located in the following pages of the newsletter. Please let me know if there is any way I can aid your worship and discipleship.]

With you on the journey,  
Pastor Jason



**WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR APRIL, 2021**

**Sunday, 4 April 2021**

“Resurrection of the Lord/Easter” - Liturgical Color: White  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 25:6-9 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Mark 16:1-8  
 Sermon: "A New Covenant"

**Sunday, 11 April 2021**

“2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter” - Liturgical Color: White  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Acts 4:32-35 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: John 20:19-31  
 Sermon: "Testimony"

**Sunday, 18 April 2021**

“3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter” - Liturgical Color: White  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Acts 3:12-19 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 24:36b-48  
 Sermon: "Witness"

**Sunday, 25 April 2021**

“4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter” - Liturgical Color: White  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Acts 4:5-12 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: John 10:11-18  
 Sermon: "Authority"



**OUR PRAYER IN TIMES OF JOY AND CONCERN...**One of our great joys and responsibilities to each other and to God here at Gregory Memorial is the regular practice of praying for each other and our community.

<p>Amy Townson, Josh Ingram’s sister                  Becky Scott Smith                  Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix’s grandson (health issues)                  Butch Meade, Glenda Mayhew’s brother                  Steve “Dee” Shortt, Kim Helmer Shortt’s husband (health issue)                  Verne &amp; Clara Smith                  Peggy Allen                  Eddie Frankenstein                  Grace Cibula                  Etta Holc                  Jerry Hasky (health issue)                  Kay Recher, daughter-in-law of Ron &amp; Judy Recher (head-on crash in Oklahoma)                  Pam Henry, Mary Holc’s family member                  Sandra Elder, Kelly Knupp's mother (health issues)                  Adele Linkenhoker, Barbara Taliaferro's friend (health concerns)                  Jane &amp; Bob Jones (health issues)</p>	<p>Junie "Bug" Treaster (recovering from surgery)                  Lee Harsh, Valerie Harsh's brother-in-law (health issue)                  Rev. Paul Luthman, previously our pastor (recovering from surgery)                  Sharon Reed &amp; family, Susan Shockley's co-worker (health issue)                  Jennifer Caldwell, friend of Grace Cibula (health issue)                  Reese Etheridge, Wayne Powers' uncle (health issue)                  Randy Warthan (health issue)                  Inez Paul, Mary Holc's mother (health issue, rehab)                  Floyd M. Brown, Sr. (health issues)                  Pam Landrum (orthopedic issue)                  Trevor Fine, Susan Shockley's neighbor's son (health issue)                  Traci Wells, Glenda Mayhew's friend (health issue)                  Morgan Ingram                  The Rolley Family, Marguerite Bishop's friends (health issues)                  Jeanette Shady, Linda Brown's aunt (health issues)                  Judy Recher (recovering from surgery)                  Linda Johnson (ankle fracture)</p>
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**"Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."**

~ John 17:3

## AS WE MOVE FORWARD IN WORSHIP...

Although we are still in the midst of the global pandemic, we have begun to "re-gather" in worship, with some specific considerations in mind and practice.

### **Please note the following:**

- ~ Worship continues each Sunday at 11:00 a.m.
- ~ On-line worship offerings will continue via Zoom (Meeting ID: 756-330-772, Passcode 6300) and Facebook Live From the church's Facebook page; or those without reliable internet may dial 1-253-215-8782 and enter Meeting ID# 756-330-772, Passcode 6300.
- ~ If you are experiencing fever or other symptoms/illness, please stay home and worship with us virtually.
- ~ If you feel comfortable doing so, you may join us in person with the following considerations:
  - Cloth masks are still in effect for public spaces. If you plan to join us in person, please join us as well in wearing a mask for the health of us all.
  - Please make liberal use of the hand sanitizer placed at each entrance to the Sanctuary.
  - Family units are asked to keep physical distance of 6 feet. Pews are marked off for this.
  - Worship information will be available on the weekly "bulletin" handout. This will also be available digitally on the church website for those who wish to worship from home.

Above all and through all, remember this: Jesus loves you and loves us; we are not abandoned; this will last some time, but is still temporary in the grand scheme of life; the more we do our part the quicker we will be on the other side of it.

Love and Peace to You All!

### **A Few Tips To Enhance Your Virtual Worship Experience**

- Turn off all other electronics and devices;
- Have your Bible ready to read along with the morning's scripture;
- Light a candle to represent Christ's Light during the service.

### **Celebrating Communion**

We will continue to celebrate communion on the first Sunday of the month. If you are worshipping in-person, the elements will be prepared ahead of time and made available to you as an individual serving. If you are worshipping with us at home/on-line, I invite you to have ready during these services a bit of bread and juice, so that you may commune with us in Spirit, as well!

### **Holy Week services will be offered:**

- Maundy Thursday (April 1, 2021): Service at 7:00 p.m., in-person and Facebook Live.
- Good Friday (April 2, 2021): Pre-recorded message, posted to Facebook page at 12:00 p.m.
- Easter Sunrise (April 4, 2021): In-person service at 7:00 a.m.

### **Holy Week readings:**

If you are unable to join for any of our service offerings on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday, here are the Scripture readings for these two holy days:

- Maundy Thursday: Exodus 12:1-14; John 13:1-17, 31b-35
- Good Friday: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; John 18:1-19:42

### THOSE WHO SERVE

The Worship Committee has temporarily suspended publishing the Sunday Servants schedule due to on-going Pandemic constraints.

### DONATED NON-PERISHABLES FOR FOOD BANK NEEDED BY EASTER SUNDAY!

The deadline for bringing non-perishable food items that we're collecting for the Food Bank is Easter Sunday! As a congregation we are supporting the local Food Bank by collecting nonperishable food items, which we will then deliver at the end of the Lenten season. We will be collecting them on the shelving located in the Sanctuary, which we hope to fill up! Thank you for your generosity, and let's fill these shelves to overflowing, week by week through Easter!

~ Missions Committee

### TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

#### *Thoughts of Easter Sundays...*

It was Easter Sunday, and the pastor and his family were invited to have Easter dinner at the Wilson home. Mrs. Wilson was widely known for her amazing contributions to the church potlucks. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. As usual, it was a feast for the eyes, the nose, and the palate as well.

When the pastor's youngest son, Peter, received his plate, he stated eating straight away.

"Peter, wait until we say grace," insisted his embarrassed father.

"In don't have to!" the five-year-old replied.

"Of course, you do, Peter," his mother insisted rather forcefully. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house."

"That's at our house," Peter explained, "But this is Mrs. Wilson's house, and she really knows how to cook!"

#### *Of Legendary Springs...*

According to a myth, you can balance an egg on its tip on a flat surface, but only on the first day of Spring!

Spring is considered to be the first of the four conventional

temperate seasons of the year. It follows winter and precedes the summer season. In many cultures, it symbolizes rebirth and new beginnings.

Spring is welcomed by one and all as it is a significant and warmer change from the snowy and chilly winter.

#### *And Fresh, Warm Biscuits...*

A Different Grace: A while back I read a story of a visiting pastor who attended a men's breakfast in the middle of a rural farming area of the country. The group had asked an older farmer, decked out in bib overalls, to say grace for the morning breakfast.

"Lord, I hate buttermilk," the farmer began.

The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wonder where this was going.

The farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I hate lard."

Now the pastor was growing concerned.

Without missing a beat, the farmer continued, "And Lord, you know I don't much care for raw white flour."

The pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room and saw that he wasn't the only one to feel uncomfortable.

Then the farmer added, "But Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them, *how I do love fresh, warm biscuits!*"

"So, Lord, when things come up that we don't like; when life gets hard; when we don't understand what You're saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until you are done mixing. It will probably be even better than biscuits. Amen."

Stay strong my friends, because our life is being mixed with lots of things that we don't care for, especially right now! Relax and wait until the mixing is finished!!!

~ Author unknown



Mmm...

## APRIL, 2021

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1 MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>  <b>2p</b> Church cleaning  <b>7p</b> Maundy Thurs. Service (no Communion)	<b>2 GOOD FRIDAY</b>  <b>12p</b> Easter sermonette (pre-recorded) posted to Facebook.com/gmpcva	<b>3 GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER</b>  <b>1p</b> Prepare flowers for Easter Cross (Worship Com. Fellowship Hall)
<b>4 EASTER</b>  <b>7a</b> Sunrise service  <b>9:30a</b> Sunday Sch.  <b>11a</b> Worship serv.  <b>11a</b> Holy Communion  <i>*One Great Hour of Sharing Offering</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>1p</b> Circle  <b>7p</b> Cong. Care Com.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>2p</b> Church cleaning	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>  <b>9:30a</b> Sunday Sch.  <b>11a</b> Worship serv.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>7p</b> Missions Com.  <b>7p</b> Outreach Com.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  <b>2p</b> News articles due  <b>2p</b> Church cleaning  <b>7p</b> Stewardship & Finance Com.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>  <b>9:30a</b> Sunday Sch.  <b>11a</b> Worship serv.  <b>12p</b> Session Meeting	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  <b>2p</b> Newsletter out  <b>2p</b> Church cleaning	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>9:30a</b> Sunday Sch.  <b>11a</b> Worship serv.  <b>11a</b> 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>2p</b> Com. Reports due	

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## ***APRIL NEWSLETTER***



COME AND JOIN US!

We're on: [Facebook.com/gmpcva](https://www.facebook.com/gmpcva)

*Sunday School 9:30 A.M.*  
*WWW.GREGORYMEMORIAL.ORG*

*Worship 11:00 A.M.*