

Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
Wednesday April 17, 2019

AND AWAY WE GO...

For the first time in six weeks there will be no Wednesday worship service this evening. I can sense your disappointment. In truth it was a true blessing to be able to come and hear the words of Jesus, and of the Father, during the middle of the week during the Lenten season. And, of course, those opportunities aren't over yet! Tomorrow evening, at 6:00pm as is our usual time, we will have our Maundy/Holy Thursday worship, and Friday at 6:00 our Good Friday service. The focus tomorrow evening will begin on the upper room in Jerusalem where Jesus gathered with His disciples for special meal, a time of teaching, and the institution of the Lord's Supper on the occasion of the Passover and the evening before His crucifixion and death. The climax of this portion of the worship service will come as we too receive this holy meal of His body and blood. Then we will follow our Savior out of the city of Jerusalem, across the Kidron Valley and onto the slope of the Mount of Olives; to a garden known as Gethsemane. There we will watch and pray (please Lord don't let any of us fall asleep) with Jesus as the devil makes his final assault on our Lord before He finishes the work of our salvation; dying the very next day as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world nailed to a Roman cross. Good Friday evening will feature a very dramatic "Tenebrae" type service. The term Tenebrae involves the gradual extinguishing of candles as we remember Jesus, the Light of the world, suffering and slowly dying on that first Good Friday. Our worship service will include a retelling of the Passion account from the Gospel of John in the words of those who were there to see it; eyewitnesses. There will be seven different readers each preceded by hymns and choir anthems. Sandra Scheel and Dave Marasus will be singing a duet of "Were You There". At the end of both the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services we ask that the congregants (you and I) leave the church silently in somber expectation of what will be happening next. Then comes Easter Sunday, and our joy will overflow once again. Worship will begin with our traditional acclamation "He is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!" The trumpets will sound and the choir will offer their anthems along with our favorite Easter hymns and songs...and there might just be a sermon too. Along with all of that the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of the Lamb; Holy Communion will be included both at 8:30 and 10:30am. Oh, and by the way, I'm told there will be plenty of wonderful food for the Fellowship Hour between the services. I look forward to remembering and reliving the Passion of the Christ with all of you, at least those of you who haven't headed north (and y'all can join us on the Facebook stream) over the next four days!