

## **MIDWEEK MISSIVE – 03/27/18 – EASTER WEEK**

It is finally here...the week we have been pointing toward...the week that helps define our Christian walk...the week that swings from joy to shock to horror to despair and back to joy...the week that begins with a triumphant entry into Jerusalem and ends with the discovery of an empty tomb and the miracle of a risen Christ...the week we call Holy.

In some ways, it may seem that the only important part of this week is the resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning, but there is so much that is important during this week! Yes, the celebration of the resurrection is the centerpiece of our journey, but it is just as important to stop and dwell on what comes before. Why? Because in this Holy Week, the whole of life is encapsulated. The joy, the fellowship, the pain, the abject grief and the ultimate triumph of God's grace. We may not experience exactly what Jesus and his disciples experienced, but the emotions are not new to us. In our lives we will deal with pain. We will deal with grief. We will deal with betrayal. We will also know the love of friends and family and the comfort that comes from that fellowship and kinship. And because of the events of Easter morning, because the tomb was empty, because Jesus overcame death, we too will experience the joy of resurrection when we sit at the heavenly banquet table with all those who showed us the way and all those who will follow us. Because of God's grace, we too, will know first-hand the joy of Easter!

So take this week slowly. Read through the gospel accounts of Holy Week. Immerse yourself in the comings and goings of Jesus and the disciples. Dwell on the hurt. Feel the sorrow. And comes the dawn on Easter morning, rejoice! For on that day, once again we declare: "Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!"

As we work our way through this week, I hope you will join us on Thursday evening, March 29th at 7:00 for our Maundy Thursday worship service. We will welcome our confirmands into the fellowship of Candleberry Chapel and Christ's church and well as experience the power of the Last Supper and the Service of Tenebrae. Then, if you would like, take some time between noon and 3:00 on Friday to stop and pray. Those are the hours tradition tells us that Jesus hung on the cross. If you would like to come into the chapel to pray during that time, you will find a basket on the table under the cross with prayer requests to guide your prayers. If you pray somewhere else, keep the good people of Candleberry Chapel in your prayers. Finally, there will be three chances to celebrate the resurrection: Saturday March 31st at 5:00 p.m., and Sunday April 1st at 6:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Be peaceful,  
Rev. Brad

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"Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." - Francis of Assisi