

## Saturday, March 28, 2020

**Title:** “I’ve Told You and I’m Telling You again.”

**Scripture:** Luke 24:44-53

**Ponder:** During Lent we are normally looking deeply into our own mortality. “You are dust and to dust you shall return.” As we ponder, we join Jesus as he walks, still with dread no doubt, willingly toward Jerusalem and his death. This year the journey is perhaps more real and personal for us. How can we bear it? What sustains you and keeps hope alive? What is Jesus’s message for you in this time?

**Pray:** Dear God, open OUR minds and teach us to understand. Is our job to love you with all our hearts and souls and minds and strength no matter what the local, national, global news brings to our awareness? Oh, and love our neighbors too? Amen

**Act:** “Find” a neighbor. Meet them even at a distance or by phone. Share email addresses and telephone numbers. Pledge neighborly support in the ways you are able: prayer, presence, gifts and service. Practice what you have promised.

**Family Time:** Have regular Question Time, where all questions are respected, and all can offer answers. Encourage meaning making as well as answer seeking. Pray together. And for those who like scary movies, watch “Signs” and discuss the question, “What is it that saves the world?”



**GOBIN CHURCH**  
A United Methodist Community for All

## Sunday, March 22, 2020

**Title:** “Who Can Lead Us?”

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 16:1-13

**Ponder:** Samuel is looking for a new leader for God’s people. He is afraid, and not sure he will choose correctly. The first choice he makes is based on all the wrong criteria. What choices have you made that were based on external appearances instead of searching for what God values? Have you been surprised at God’s final choices?

**Pray:** Dear God, we are looking for help here. We are afraid that we will not choose correctly when it is time. Show us the ways of your heart, speak to us in a still small voice. Let us look for wisdom and kindness combined with a servant’s heart. Amen

**Act:** In the news, and in your lives, take note of the humble, kind, and quietly courageous folk. Rejoice in them and follow their actions or news about them.

**Family Time:** Try whispering conversations tonight. Speak and hear important truths said in a still small voice and listen together for God.

## Monday, March 23, 2020

**Title:** “We All Fall Down”

**Scripture:** Ezekiel 37:1-14

**Ponder:** This is both a challenging and comforting scripture for those of us watching the numbers of persons affected by the Covid 19 Virus around the world. Ezekiel is surveying the waste of life all around him, but this passage shows that even in the midst of death there is hope, restoration, rejuvenation and resurrection. In Lent we are invited to reflect on this truth. Our world now insists that we do so.

**Pray:** Dear God, we are surrounded on all sides by realities that can break the bones of our hope. Yet we know that in you “these bones can live.” Help us to see the ways even now you cause breath to enter us. You give us sinews for strength and flesh to cover and keep us. Every day we are resurrected by you. Amen

**Act:** What have you despaired of in your life? What has died for you? Can you invite God to breathe new life into you, your work, your relationships, your awareness of who lives with you in the body of Christ?

**Family Time:** Play “Ring Around the Rosie” or if alone, remember a time when you played that game. The fun was in holding hands, singing and moving in circles, in falling down and getting up again. What versions can you, did you, create?

### Tuesday, March 24, 2020

**Title:** “Out of the Depths”

**Scripture:** Psalm 130

**Ponder:** Are you struggling to sleep, either fall asleep or stay asleep these days? Do you find yourself waiting for the light to dawn, for the morning to come, or for the nightmare to end? What happens when you think of yourself as waiting for the Lord? When you are in the depths, this psalm can move you from waiting to hoping in God’s steadfast love.

**Pray:** Dear God, sometimes we spend our time in darkness waiting and watching for you. The hour and days are endless. But when we practice hoping, we join you in creating new life and can see the morning come. Amen

**Act:** Make a list of your top three worries, and then list your top three hopes. Share them with someone. Ask someone to share three worries and three hopes with you. Talk about waiting together in dark times and naming the light of hope when you see it. How can you share waiting and hoping for the next week?

**Family Time:** Write out the words of the psalm, and spend time this week memorizing them. Celebrate whatever can be recited at the end of the week.

### Wednesday, March 25, 2020

**Title:** “Survival Kit”

**Scripture:** Romans 8:6-11

**Ponder:** TS Eliot writes about “those who walk in darkness, who chose thee and oppose thee.” Our lives often seem like zig zag journeys between flesh and spirit. You may have noticed that when you “set your mind on the flesh” it is easy to believe you can accomplish your own life, health and salvation. Facts, figures, tests, vaccines, masks, enough toilet paper, however truly essential, are not ever enough to lead us to a place of peace. That part of our journey happens when we allow the Spirit of God to dwell in us.

**Pray:** Dear God, we are more and more uncomfortably aware of the vulnerabilities of the flesh and the limits of our physical power these days. Help us prepare AND live filled with your Spirit, and know peace.

**Act:** Gather a treasure chest of items that help your spirit survive a pandemic, like scripture, and music, and art books, and journals, and candles, and matches, and prayer beads, and if you like them, essential oils. (You already have toilet paper, right?) Give this treasure a special place in your house.

**Family Time:** Create a family altar space. Take turns decorating it each day. Help littles and bigs choose scripture, light a candle, paint or choose a picture, and call the others to come and be still, and remember God is good.

### Thursday, March 26, 2020

**Title:** “I’m Coming Out”

**Scripture:** John 11:1-45

**Ponder:** What does Jesus mean when he says “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, though they die, will live.” What does it mean to live when we are aware of our vulnerabilities, our inevitable aging, the dangers of pandemic, the persistence of ignorance and greed?

**Pray:** Dear God, Jesus weeps for us, and calls us out of the tombs in our lives. Is it safe to come out, we wonder? Amen

**Act:** Observe yourself today. How are you winding or unwinding the burial cloths of your life?

**Family Time:** Play Hide and Seek. How does it feel to hide? Are you afraid to be found? Or is it a huge relief to come out into the open again? Talk about feelings of dread and hope combined. Imagine what Lazarus had to say when he came out of the tomb. Enjoy references to zombies if you must.

### Friday, March 27, 2020

**Title:** “How Can This Be?”

**Scripture:** Luke 1:26-38

**Ponder:** It may seem strange to read these words in the middle of Lent, but the church calendar celebrates this week as the one in which the angel of the Lord appeared to Mary and she became pregnant. I counted and Christmas is about nine months away! What other good news are we missing in the midst of confusion and dread?

**Pray:** Dear God, we are so glad that you keep showing up in our lives and transforming our darkness into light. We remember you and Mary as she said, “Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Amen

**Act:** Sing “Holy, Holy, Holy” as often as you need to today.

**Family Time:** This is probably only for the teens and young adults among you, and requires streaming capability. Watch and discuss “Children of Men.” Note the acts of courage and kindness throughout this dystopian science fiction thriller.