

Sebastopol United Methodist Church
Sunday, March 21, 2021
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Order of Worship, including Scripture

Seasonal Theme:

Jesus makes his way toward Jerusalem and the cross, so that we might have undeserved forgiveness for our sins.

Theme for the day:

Jesus presents paradoxes of the Christian life and makes important promises for our discipleship.

Call to worship:

*(please read the **BOLD** text, aloud or silently as you prefer).*

Pastor: Jesus said, "When I am lifted up, I will draw all people toward myself."

People: **Blessed be the God of our salvation, who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

Pastor: Open the skies and pour down your grace upon your people.

People: **Open our hearts to hear your voice. Let the thunder of your presence awaken us!**

Pastor: Have mercy on your people, O God.

Unison: **Restore within us the joy of your salvation. Draw us nearer to Jesus, our Christ. Amen.**

Centering & Prayer of Illumination:

(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

God of love and mercy, open our hearts to your presence as we worship you today. Give us the strength to respond faithfully to your transforming love, that the joy of your salvation might shine in and through us all. Wipe away our wrongdoing, clean our hearts, and make us more perfect. As we meditate on your word today, fill us with your Holy Spirit that we may treasure your word with our whole hearts and fix our eyes on you. Amen.

Readings from Scripture: **Jeremiah 31:31-34** **John 12:20-33**
(readings begin below)

Message: **JOURNALING IN THE HEART!**

Pastoral Prayer

As we anticipate the transformation already begun within us, and as we look toward being made perfect in God's holy love, let us respond in the joy of our salvation and in the hope of becoming God's covenant people.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:

(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

Generous and all-loving God, grant us the wisdom to know you more completely. Give us the hope to live as your people. Inspire us to give of our spirits more fully, in the faith that your promise is already within us. As we give our gifts and tithes today, we recommit ourselves to your service and to the service of your people. May our gifts be made perfect through Christ, to glorify you and to bless the world. We pray as followers of the glorified Christ. Amen.

Blessing and Benediction:

May the God whose hand has marked his law of love upon our hearts fill you with peace from deep within, and with the commitment to live in harmony. Stay in peace. Love unconditionally and serve Christ.

.....

SCRIPTURE READINGS for March 21, 2021

first reading – JEREMIAH 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the

land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

second reading – JOHN 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say — ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

.....

Sebastopol United Methodist Church
500 North Main Street, Sebastopol CA 95472
sebumc@sonic.net sebumc.org YouTube channel: Sebastopol UMC

Thank you for worshipping with us today.