

# LENT: IN THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS

## TODAY:

In the Shadow of the Cross: the Fig Tree

## SUNDAY, MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup>:

In the Shadow of the Cross: the Prodigal Son

## SUNDAY, APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>:

In the Shadow of the Cross: the Anointing

## SUNDAY, APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup>:

In the Shadow of the Cross:  
the Parade of Palms/the Passion

## GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>:

In the Shadow of the Cross: Death

## SUNDAY, APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>

## EASTER SUNDAY:

In the Light of the Empty Tomb

## *IN THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS:*

Peace United Church of Christ

*the Fig Tree*

Elkader, Iowa

## PRELUDE:

## INTRODUCTION TO BELL CHOIR SONG:

### SONG:

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand" by Thomas Dorsey  
arranged by Douglas E. Wagner

Bell Choir

## SILENT REFLECTION

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

## CALL TO WORSHIP: inspired by Isaiah 55

L: Listen! You who are thirsty, come to the waters! You who have no money; come, take and eat. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, your earnings for that which does not satisfy?

**P: Let us listen carefully to God, eat what is good, realizing that God has made an eternal covenant with us.**

L: Let us seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him

while he is near. Leave behind wicked ways and unhealthy thoughts.

**P: Let us return to the Lord, seeking his mercy and pardon.**

L: For the Lord's thoughts are not our thoughts, the Lord's ways are not our ways.

**P: We come to worship, hungry for grace, grateful to receive God's word that gives us life. We come to worship, praise and show our love for God!**

**SONG:** "For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" #42

**IN THE SHADOW of the Fig Tree,**

**THE WORD OF NOURISHMENT COMES**

**PRAYER: (unison) God of Love, may you speak your Word to us, your Word of life that cleanses, renews and sets us free. May you speak your Word that gives us back ourselves, radiant with your love. AMEN**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSONS:**

**EPISTLE:** I. Corinthians 10:1-13 Sue Stott

**GOSPEL:** Luke 13:1-9 Pastor Paula

**MESSAGE:**

"Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the best fig tree of all"

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** (Psalm 63) (unison)

**O Lord, I trust you, even in the midst of doubt and despair.**

**O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you in a dry and weary land where there is no water.**

**O Lord, I believe in you, even if my life's circumstances make it hard to believe in anything at all. But because your love is better than life, my lips will sing and my heart shall praise you all the days of my life.**

**O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you in a dry and weary land where there is no water.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE. THE LORD'S PRAYER**

At the end of each petition, the leader will say, "God, in your unfailing love" and **the people will answer, "hear our prayer."**

L: Liberating Lord, Savior and Spirit.....

God in your unfailing love, **P: hear our prayer.**

L: In the heat of violence.....

God in your unfailing love **P: hear our prayer.**

L: In the reality of these changing times.....

God in your unfailing love **P: hear our prayer.**

L: There are those in our midst.....

God in your unfailing love **P: hear our prayer**

L: Liberating Lord, Savior and Spirit.....

And so we join with our brothers and sisters of all backgrounds throughout the world in the prayer that Jesus taught us, the prayer that unites us.....**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. AMEN**

**OFFERING INVITATION AND TAKING OF OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY:**

**\*THE DOXOLOGY:** Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above you heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. **AMEN.**

**\*BENEDICTION:** (unison) Be with us, Lord, as we journey through this week. May you help us to turn around, to see you, serve you, witness to your love. **AMEN.**

**\*SENDING FORTH SONG:** "Blessed Assurance" #473

**\*POSTLUDE**

## WELCOME

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### Worship Leaders

#### Today-March 23rd

**Worship:** Pastor Paula

**Reader:** Sue Stott

**Fellowship:** Kenny, Penny Leonard

**Organist:** Laura Moser

**Ushers:** Kenny, Penny Leonard

**Opening/  
Closing** Sue Stott

#### Next Sunday, March 30th

Pastor Paula

Reader needed

Dean, Joanne Gray

Arlene Reimer

Barb Chandler

Dean, Joanne Gray

**PRAYER LIST:** Bob, Cheryl, Greg Anderson, Gus Augustson, Eli Belser, Betty Buchholz, Jonah Burns and Burns family, Deb Dennler, Karen Glesne, Linda Glesne, Penny Jacobson, Karla, Ruth Grau, family of Marilyn Nielsen Ruth Olson, Lucena Phelps, Elaine Radloff, Sharon Reichert, Alice Reimer, Payton Renschler, Father James

**NEXT WEEK: Lenten Series "In the Shadow of the Cross" continues with the Prodigal Son.**

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

9 a.m.-noon-----Monday, Wednesday. Thursday  
8 a.m.-10:45 a.m.—Tuesday

### WEEKLY CALENDAR OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES

**Monday:** Office hours: 9-noon

**Tuesday:** Office hours: 9-10:45 a.m.

Clergy Text Study: 11 a.m.

**Wednesday:** Office hours: 9-noon

5:30 p.m.. Bell Choir practice

6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir practice

**Thursday:** Office hours: 9-noon

1 p.m. Ecumenical Ministerium Mtg.

**Friday:** Pastor's Day Off

**Saturday:** Worship Prep

**NEEDED:** *The Church History work group is updating the church's history especially pictures and news from 2016 to the present. ALSO, pictures and news focused on the Christian Education unit and the parsonage will be greatly welcomed. Thank you!*

**Celebration of Life for Marilyn Nielsen will be held on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>: 9:30-11 a.m. visitation at the church followed by 11 a.m. funeral with inurnment afterwards and lunch in Herbster Hall**

**Graveside Service for Jenny Olson will be held on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. in Eastside Cemetery. A luncheon will be held afterwards at Johnson's Restaurant.**