

# Lenten Devotional



*seeking*



## **Ash Wednesday, February 18    Morgan Murray**

**Read:** Isaiah 58:6-8    What is your body, your mind or your soul seeking? What is God seeking? Do they align?

**Reflect:** I was one of those kids that asked, “Why?” a lot... especially when asked to do something that I’d rather not do. Why do I have to go outside? Why do I have to take a bath? Why do I have to eat the liver that grandma made for dinner? My mother grew weary of this question to the point that she finally settled on one answer: “Because it’s good for you.”

Why do we “do” Lent? Because it’s good for us. But more than that, it’s good for everyone around us. It is good for our neighbors. It is good for our nation. It is good for the world. When we embrace Lent as an opportunity to connect our love for God with our love for neighbor, only good can come of it.

Isaiah 58:3 records that the people have been asking, “Why do we keep fasting if God isn’t going to listen to us and bless us?” God’s answer is, “That’s not the kind of fasting I want from you.” Lent isn’t a time for more religious formality or shows of personal piety. Lent is the time to roll up our sleeves and apply ourselves to the work of making life better for others. Even a little bit of effort focusing on the hurts, needs, and unrighted wrongs of others brings us into alignment with God’s loving purposes. The result is immediate: Healing happens. Lives get turned around. Prayers are heard and answered.

**Prayer:** Great and merciful God, stir in us a deeper longing for justice and greater courage to be pursued for the sake of others.

**Saturday, February 21, 2026**

Read Matthew 4:1-11 and Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7



Seeking the fruit of the garden, Adam and Eve allow the snake's manipulative voice to become louder than God's voice. In the wilderness, Jesus defies the deception of the tempter by listening intuitively to God, to his inner moral compass, to the teachings of his faith tradition.

As you reflect on the scripture, prepare your heart and mind to be present for Sunday worship, ask yourself, "To whom will you listen?"

**Monday, February 23, 2026**

**Scripture:** Matthew 4:1-7

**Reflect:** The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to fast in preparation for his ministry. Jesus, in his weakened human state, was taunted by the devil to undermine Jesus' faith in God's protection, daring Jesus to prove himself as the Son of God by being rescued from his hunger and brought to safety. But Jesus overcame the devil's temptation by demonstrating a *total* reliance on God's Word when his human body was without strength.

What disciplines can you adopt to strengthen your spiritual response to human or physical temptations?

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for the Holy Spirit who leads *us* through the wilderness of our daily lives. May we pull from Scripture to provide comfort in time of weakness and prayerfully provide strength in time of strife. May our days be filled with discipline and a deep reliance on your Word to sustain and nourish our mind, body, and spirit. Amen

**Tuesday, February 24, 2026**

**Read:** Matthew 4:8-10. 8

**Reflect:** From the mountaintop during the third and final temptation, the devil tried to bargain with Jesus for the kingdom below and above. God is the omnipotent Creator and ruler over the kingdom, all things visible and invisible. The Kingdom's glory, honor, and respect cannot be bargained away or bought. Jesus declared God's sovereignty to the devil, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

How can you amplify your honor and respect for God?

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, open my mind, heart and soul to trust that you will provide for all my needs. May I be satisfied with your loving provision. May I give to you all honor and respect, serving you through my actions, my words, my thoughts, my time. Amen

**Wednesday, February 25, 2026**

**Read:** Matthew 4:11. 11

**Reflect:** Angels are divine, fiery, powerful holy beings that minister God's will and were present with Jesus in his times of trial. We know that angels are ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit eternal life (Hebrews 1:14) and that we may even have entertained angels unaware (Hebrews 13:2). The expression 'angels among us,' refers to the concept that ordinary people, acting with extraordinary kindness, appear in the lives of strangers to provide help and support, typically without seeking recognition, acclaim, or reward...this isn't reserved for the holy among us--- anyone can do good.

How can you better the life of someone in your path today?

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, open my eyes to needs of others, and may my strength and resources be available to help those who are without; may my words of comfort come from you, reflecting your GRACE and LOVE. This prayer I lift in the name of your son Jesus Christ who made the ultimate sacrifice for us all, Amen.

**Thursday, February 26, 2026:**

**Read:** Genesis 2:15-17

**Reflect:** Good Father that he is, God was clear in outlining expected behavior for Adam in Eden: (a) to work the earth and keep it good; (b) to eat what was provided; and (c) not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God's direction was given to Adam in love, and they enjoyed an intimate relationship, walking together in the cool of the day. Can you imagine that? God has expectations of us also--- to keep his commandments, to care for the earth and for our neighbors, to live within our means and be generous, to respect boundaries and the law. God's direction to us is given to us in love.

Is there a behavior you can acknowledge in yourself that crosses the line of what God requires of you? An attitude that does not come from a place of love?

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, give me the strength to live by your commandments, acknowledge where my actions fall short, and the strength to admit and correct my mistakes. Praying and trusting in your freeing and forgiving love, Amen.

**Friday, February 27, 2026**

**Read:** Genesis 3:1-7

**Reflect:** All humanity inherits a sinful nature from the original sin committed by Adam and Eve in Eden. Adam and Eve broke God's law by eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil because of *desire*, a very human experience. Jesus experienced normal human desires too, such as hunger, thirst, and the need for rest. Jesus was tempted in every way just as we are, but he remained *sinless* and did not participate in selfish or evil desires. Sin separates us from God, but Jesus, by his death and resurrection, restores us to a relationship with the Lord. Jesus removes the barrier to Eden. Praise the Lord!

Is there a barrier of trust, comfort, desire that is keeping you at distance from God? And if so, what steps would you need to take to overcome the obstacle?

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, teach me discernment, make evident the root of earthly desires, and strengthen me to rise above temptation. May the goodness of your Word nourish my body, heart, mind, and soul. Amen.

**Saturday, February 28, 2026**

**Read:** John 3:1-17; Genesis 12: 1-4a to prepare for the second Sunday in Lent. The theme is “Seeking: How Do We Begin Again?” Here we are invited to have a deeper understanding of living out our faith in Jesus.

**Sunday, March 1, 2026**

On this Sabbath day, reflect on this beautiful landscape by Christie Bogrette. Our God is a God of beauty and endless creativity and I believe he delights in *our* delight!



*This week's devotions were written by Debra Lee*

**Monday, March 2, 2026**

**Read:** John 3:1-2

Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader, exemplifies individuals possessing religious knowledge but lacking spiritual understanding. He recognized Jesus as a teacher from God, yet his decision to visit at night suggests a desire to avoid public attention. The Gospel of John presents Nicodemus as interested in Jesus. Did he comprehend that he is the long-awaited Messiah?

**Reflect:** Do I truly understand the sacrificial love of Jesus, son of God? Is my faith merely intellectual? Like Nicodemus, what are the questions I ask in the dark?

**Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, I seek to truly understand Jesus. Please help me deepen my relationship with you through faith in him.

**Tuesday, March 3, 2026**

**Read:** John 3: 3-8

**Reflect:** Jesus teaches that entering God's kingdom depends on a transformation—being born of water *and* Spirit—made possible by God's love, not by human effort, leading to a new relationship with God. Entering God's Kingdom requires being born again, from above, a concept Nicodemus struggled with. Jesus explained this as a renewal of the Holy Spirit. This rebirth is compared to the wind. We can't see the spiritual birth itself, but we can see the effects, like trees swaying in the breeze. This spiritual birth brings a profound internal change---a transformation--- that becomes evident externally.

Are my words and actions evidence of true spiritual change through faith in Jesus, rather than just religious knowledge or my own efforts?

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank you for your divine gift of rebirth. Reveal my shortcomings in expressing my faith and renew my spirit for deeper transformation that reflects your light and love.

**Wednesday, March 4, 2026**

**Read:** John 3: 9-15

**Reflect:** Jesus finishes speaking with Nicodemus by explaining that spiritual rebirth comes through divine authority and sacrifice. He claims the title "Son of Man," (Daniel 7:13), and uses the story of Moses's bronze serpent (Numbers 21:4-9) to foreshadow his own crucifixion. Just as Israelites were healed by faith, Jesus says those who believe in him will gain eternal life. The passage stresses salvation is God's work, received through faith rather than human effort.

How has Jesus taken away my sin and transformed me through his resurrection and my faith?

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank you that as the bronze serpent brought life to the Israelites, Jesus gives us eternal life and restores our relationship with you.

**Thursday, March 5, 2026**

**Read:** John 3:16 –17

**Reflect:** These verses sum up the Christian gospel: God's love is meant for everyone and seeks to save, not condemn. Verse 16 highlights his love for all, and verse 17 emphasizes salvation over judgment. Everlasting life means a new spiritual existence through faith in Jesus, starting at belief and lasting for all eternity.

What action can I take today to respond to God's love and embody Jesus's saving purpose?

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus to save humanity, not to condemn. Help me to fully receive this amazing love, not as something earned, but as a gift. Give me strength and guide me to live a life that reflects your truth and love to others.

**Friday, March 6, 2026**

**Read:** Genesis 12: 1-4a

**Reflect:** These verses show God's sovereign call to Abram, initiating a covenant that promised blessings for all people. Abram is chosen by grace, not merit, and his journey marks a spiritual shift based on faith and trust in God. This narrative parallels our Christian call to follow Christ, emphasizing letting go of the past and relying on God's transformative promises for redemption.

Like Abram and Sarai, how do we follow God's call to begin again?

**Prayer:** Lord, thank you for your grace that allows me to start anew. Thank you for being present when I call upon your name. Help me to move forward in faith, trusting that you are my source of security and that your ways are higher than mine.

**Saturday, March 7, 2026**

Read John 4:5-42 and Exodus 17:1-7 Consider how you might have offered living water to a thirsty soul this week.

**Sunday, March 8, 2026**

On this Sabbath day, take some time to let God's living water refresh your spirit. May this painting of a well by RP Weiford, Leslie Wise's father, inspire your meditations.



*This week's devotions were written by Leslie Wise*

**Monday, March 9, 2026**

**Read:** Revelation 21:6 and Isaiah 12:3

**Reflect:** When I was younger, my family spent several summers of our vacation near the Virginia/North Carolina border. We stayed in an abandoned farmhouse that had no indoor plumbing, heat, or electricity. It was once a lovely estate that looked out over a vista of mountain grandeur. Every morning, we would walk with our father to a well to draw water for the day. It took two of us to crank the water-filled bucket up to the surface. Once we tasted that water, our efforts were soon forgotten. It was the clearest and coldest, most refreshing water I have ever tasted then or since. God offers us that same clear, pure water of refreshment. It doesn't come from a bottle or a tap; it isn't a brand to find in a grocery store. He gives us this water without cost. Come! Taste and see; God promises that we will thirst no more.

**Prayer:** God, sometimes I try to repay You for what is freely given. But my repayment plan soon runs out. Help us receive the grace only you can give with the words, Paid in Full.

**Tuesday, March 10, 2026**

**Read:** Deuteronomy 31:6

**Reflect:** In order for us to go to the well, my siblings and I were required to walk there with our father. We knew the dangers of those inky depths. Snakes could be hidden in our path. Dad was our protector and our guide; he would always help us carry those heavy, sloshy buckets home. What burdens our Heavenly Father can carry for us. What protection he offers us with his care. It was a gift to walk side-by-side with our earthly father, even for a short time. Sometimes we would cross a mountain meadow to get to the well. On other days, we would walk down a red clay path to our destination. No matter what paths we find ourselves on, our Heavenly Father walks with us every day, all day. He doesn't leave us stranded on dangerous paths; he will carry our 'buckets' for us, if only we will let go of them. Consider singing "In the Garden" today. It can be found in [Hymnary.org](http://Hymnary.org).

**Prayer:** Thank you, Father God, that you walk through the garden with us. You lead us through many "dangers, toils and snares" on the path that leads us home.

**Wednesday, March 11, 2026**

**Read:** Jeremiah 2:12, 13

**Reflect:** In Jeremiah 2, God admonished his people for two evils; for forsaking him, the fountain of living waters, and for making broken cisterns that can hold no water. Cisterns, in biblical times, were stoney, man-made underground reservoirs used to collect rainwater for the dry season. A broken cistern could hold no water. How often we fashion broken cisterns hoping to find fulfillment, only to find them empty. Dry cisterns can be enticing, lured by social media, advertising algorithms, and our own greed. What promises they seem to offer! But like diving into an empty pool, they can lead to our harm. God yearns for us to return to him. Even after spending all that we have to build yet another dry cistern, God welcomes us back just as the father welcomes the prodigal son, with arms spread wide in rejoicing.

**Prayer:** Father, give us courage to walk away from the lure of broken cisterns. You know our fallen propensities. How quickly we return to our folly. We are grateful that you love us deeply despite our wandering souls.

**Thursday, March 12, 2026**

**Read:** John 4: 5-30 Exodus 17:1-7

**Reflect:** Jesus, wearied by his journey, sat by a well to rest. A Samaritan woman came to draw water. He asked her for a drink. She was a woman, yet Jesus spoke freely to her. Samaritans were considered unclean. Just touching the cup offered by the woman rendered Jesus ritually unclean. He knew her past and present yet did not hold that against her. Given her history of adultery, she was considered sinful even by Samaritan standards. The Samaritan woman drew her water in the heat of day at a time where she might not encounter others. She knew her shame. Jesus could have backed away from her in disdain. Jesus does not back away from us no matter the depth of our sin. We do not have to clean ourselves up to meet with the Savior. Jesus takes away our shame and restores us with kindness.

**Prayer:** Jesus, sit with us for a while by the well. We are wearied by our own journeys. Give us the Words of life and love we need to continue on our way with joy.

## **Friday, March 13, 2026**

**Read:** Exodus 17:1-7 and Psalm 81:16

**Reflect:** The Israelites were quarreling about the lack of water at their camp in the wilderness. Moses, as commanded by the Lord, struck the rock with his staff and water flowed from it. Like the Israelites, we may despair over the seemingly immovable trials in our lives. We question God's provision for us. But remember...Water may come out of the hardest of places. Jesus was buried in a rock hewn tomb. The stone was seemingly immovable. Yet, from that dark tomb, light and life came pouring forth on Easter Day. Paul exhorts us not to lose hope, "for our momentary affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond comparison (2 Cor 4:17-18)." Honey can be found in the rock.

**Prayer:** Father, "nothing is impossible with you". Even the stoniest desert can become a garden of watered flowers. Let praise be on our lips today.

## **Saturday, March 14, 2026**

Read John 9:1-41 to prepare for tomorrow's sermon.

## **Sunday, March 15, 2026**

On this Sabbath day, meditate on the hands in the stained glass that follows. Do you see God's hand reaching for you? May you relax into his grasp this day. You are secure in God's hands.



*This week's devotions were written by Debi Ferrarello*

**Monday, March 16, 2026**

**Read:** John 9: 1-5

**Reflect:** Psychiatrist Curt Thompson said that “Every baby is born into the world looking for someone looking for them.” That rings true, doesn’t it? Is it not the desire of every human heart to be fully seen and yet deeply loved? As Jesus and his disciples walked along, Jesus *saw* the blind man. The Greek word *horaō* translated here as “see” appears 29 times in the book of John. It can also mean “pay attention to.” Jesus sees and *pays attention to* the blind and lame; he sees the outcast and the one who just doesn’t fit in; he sees the lonely and heartbroken. Jesus sees and pays attention to those who are passed over, unseen, ignored. Jesus sees you and Jesus sees me *and he loves us*. Take a moment to reflect on the God of the universe seeing you, paying attention to you, loving you deeply.

Let’s ask God to give us eyes to see the overlooked, the judged, the broken, and to use us as agents of his love.

**Prayer:** Lord God, thank you for seeing me. How wonderful to be seen and known by the Lord of all creation. Give me eyes to see those who are overlooked and undervalued, and seeing them, may I love them as you love them, for their good and your glory. What joy it is when you use us to bless others.

**Tuesday, March 17, 2026**

**Read:** John 9:1-3

**Reflect:** Jesus's disciples asked Jesus if it was the blind man or his parents who had sinned and caused him to be born blind. What a question! A question born out of the wrong assumption that infirmities were a punishment for sinful behaviors. What assumptions do we have about God and the world? Have we adopted transactional assumptions, thinking we will be blessed if we do good things and punished when we mess up? Do we truly believe, on an operational level, that God's grace is undeserved and wildly extravagant?

When we encounter situations we do not understand, what better questions can we ask of God? Rather than, "Who sinned?," perhaps we can ask how his works might be revealed in the situation, how we can share his love, where he is in the midst of it all. We can ask the One who sees to help us see; the One who loves to help us love.

**Prayer:** Lord, please show us assumptions we hold that are not congruent with your character. Help us to seek you in every situation, and humbly ask for understanding. Help us to ask the right questions and be open to the guidance of your Holy Spirit.

**Wednesday, March 18, 2026**

**Read:** John 9:34-38

**Reflect:** The Pharisees cast out the newly sighted man but Jesus found him. Jesus *found* him! Jesus the Good Shepherd finds his lost sheep, carries them close to his heart, brings them home. God the Father runs to the returning prodigal. The Holy Spirit lovingly draws people to his own heart. All who seek will find (Matt 7:7 and many OT verses) and as we seek, Jesus is already seeking us. How beautiful to know that we are sought after by the God of all creation.

The man born blind was cast out by the religious elite. He challenged the status quo; his new sight challenged their vision. May we adopt God's way of seeing, welcoming---inviting---of all God's children.

**Prayer:** Think of someone you know who does not know the love of our God and Savior, Pray that they will seek God and know that as they do, God will seek them and they will be found in him.

**Thursday, March 19, 2026**

**Read:** John 9:4-7; Genesis 2:7; 2 Kings 5:8-14

**Reflect:** Jesus made mud from the dust of the ground and his own spit and covered the eyes of the blind man. “Go,” he told the man, “wash in the Pool of Siloam,” which means “sent.” Do you hear echoes of Elisha telling Naaman to wash in the Jordan to be healed of his leprosy? How odd these instructions are! Naaman was initially too proud to follow the prophet’s instruction, but when he humbled himself to do so, upon the advice of a servant, no less, he was healed. Both stories are of trust and obedience. Both men were needful, humble, and hopeful enough to obey.

What are *you* desperate for? Healing? Hope? What might God be calling you to? It may be something that seems odd, as God’s ways are surprising! But if we listen expectantly, patiently, God will guide us. If we humble ourselves before him, trust his voice, obey his words, we will be healed...of our blindness, of our shame. We will join our sighted brother in saying, “Lord, I believe,” and worship him. He is worthy!

**Prayer:** Lord, I ask you to help me trust you enough to obey, even when what you call me to seems odd, risky, humbling. Lord, as I obey you, may you open my eyes to see. I want to see you. I want to see others as you see them. I want to be healed. And may the works of God be displayed in me, for your glory and delight.

**Friday, March 20, 2026**

**Read:** John 9:1-3 and 9:34; Psalm 83:16

*Cover their faces with shame, LORD, so that they will seek your name.*

*Ps 83:16.*

**Reflect:** The Bible is a collection of 66 books of many genres---history, biography, poetry, and more. Through centuries of writing and various forms of literature flow a beautiful story of love covering shame, of humans hiding from God and God *finding* them, covering their nakedness, of humans straying from God and of God's pursuit, lovingly wooing them back into the fold. The Bible presents a breathtaking story of God's relentless love for wayward, wandering people.

In the time of John's gospel, people viewed disabilities as evidence of sin, and so on top of the burden of blindness was the pain of being a walking, talking symbol of sin. In giving sight to the blind, Jesus also took away his shame. Do you carry shame? Perhaps from some secret sin, an area of resistance to God, cutting words said, resentment or hatred harbored? James tells us to confess our sins to one another that we may be healed. Bringing sin into the light robs it of its power and Jesus is the Light of the world! Confess, and let Jesus cover your shame with his own pure robes.

**Prayer:** Lord, I reflect now on areas in which I am not following your way of love. Help me to bring them into the light, to confess, and to receive your forgiveness. Thank you for covering my shame and allowing me to stand in your love.

**Saturday, March 21, 2026**

**Read** John 11:1-45 and Ezekial 37:1-14 in preparation for tomorrow's sermon

**Sunday, March 24, 2026**

On this Sabbath day, reflect on the breath of God breathing life to dry bones. Go ahead. Let your bones dance!



*This week's devotions were written by Beth Hedges, InterVarsity Link Staff, Eurasia, a missionary who grew up at FPCA and whom we support.*

**Monday, March 23, 2026**

**Read:** John 11:1-7

**Reflect:** Jesus loved Lazarus' family, so (???) He delays going when he is sick. What is going on? A relationship with God is an ongoing choice. Jesus, in this delay, is giving the family an opportunity to trust Him and to affirm their faith. I also have an ongoing choice, especially when what God is doing doesn't make sense to me. What choice will I make when my life with God is hard and confusing?

**Prayer:** Lord, you are good, you love me and you want what is best for me, even when it does not feel like it (*think of some places of confusion*). Help me to trust in your goodness and love and plan, even in the midst of delay and confusion. Please work it all out for your glory - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen

**Video:** The Test (Bible Project)

<https://bibleproject.com/videos/the-test/>

**Painting:** The Light Shines in the Darkness painting by Serhiy Roy

<https://www.saatchiart.com/en-lv/art/Painting-AND-THE-LIGHT-SHINES-IN-DARKNESS-AND-THE-DARKNESS-DOES-NOT-DEFILE-HIM/661916/3797309/view>

**Tuesday, March 24, 2026**

**Read:** John 11:7-16

**Reflect:** Here again Jesus is confusing. After the delay, now He will go to Judea where his life has been threatened, a decision his disciples question. Jesus tells them that Lazarus is asleep, meaning he is dead, and this also confuses the disciples. But in the midst of that confusion Thomas holds firm to Jesus, even if it means death. (*Church tradition says he was martyred in India.*) How does Thomas' commitment, even while confused and afraid, challenge me?

**Prayer:** God, you know my confusion and doubt, my questions and fears. But where can I go? You alone have the words of eternal life. (Jn 6:68). I give you my confusion, doubts, questions and fears. Be my light so I will not stumble. Help me walk with you in life and death and in all things. Be my Light and Life.

**Song:** "My Lord and My God" | Song on St. Thomas the Apostle |  
Inspirational Christian Music 2025

**Wednesday, March 25, 2026**

**Read:** John 11:18-32

**Reflect:** The sisters' faith here is mixed with accusations. "Jesus, if you had been here..." Where have I felt the same? "God, I know you could have, but you didn't." "God, where were You? You could have prevented that (*death, problem, hurt, pain, etc*)." Jesus does not condemn their doubts and struggles, but He does call them to faith and trust as he tells Martha who he is and what power he has.

**Prayer:** Jesus Messiah, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner according to your goodness and power. Do not give me what my belief is worth, but give to me according to your identity and power. Say the word and it will be done. May your Kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

**Song:** Total Submission – Ebuka Songs (LYRICS)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luGiXLwRNPk&list=RDluGiXLwRNPk&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luGiXLwRNPk&list=RDluGiXLwRNPk&start_radio=1)

**Thursday, March 26, 2026**

**Read:** John 11:33-45 and 11:53

**Reflect:** Here Jesus is judged, criticized, and doubted. Again, there is a choice: Jesus calls Mary to belief and calls Lazarus to life. In response many believe in Him, but at the same time Jewish leaders plot His death (11:53). Where have I “domesticated” Jesus to be a nice teacher, forgetting He is so much more. Jesus was sent by God the Father as The Resurrection and The Life so that by believing in him I might have life, even though I die. How can I cling to Jesus in life and death, in all and in everything?

**Prayer:** Father, thank you for sending the Son to be The Resurrection and The Life. Jesus, thank you that you invite me to belief and to life. You know my struggles and my unbelief. Spirit, help me and strengthen my faith so that in life and death and in all and in everything I may be with you, Father, Son and Spirit, forever and ever. Amen

**Song:** Cain – Rise Up (Lazarus) [Official Lyric Video]

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pw8lgPHRBr4&list=RDpw8lgPHRBr4&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pw8lgPHRBr4&list=RDpw8lgPHRBr4&start_radio=1)

**Art:** Detail of the rising of Lazarus by Eduard von Genhardt

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Eduard\\_von\\_Gebhardt\\_-\\_The\\_Raising\\_of\\_Lazarus\\_-\\_Google\\_Art\\_Project\\_\(cropped\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Eduard_von_Gebhardt_-_The_Raising_of_Lazarus_-_Google_Art_Project_(cropped).jpg)

**Friday, March 27, 2026**

**Read:** Ezekiel 37:1-14

**Reflect:** Dry bones in the wilderness. These very dry bones are God's people who have lost hope and are disconnected from God. Where do you feel dry and disconnected? Where is my church dry and disconnected? Where is the Worldwide Church dry and disconnected? Have hope! The Word of the Lord can bring abundant life in Christ. Speak God's Word to dry bones that they may live and breathe!

**Prayer:** *(Follow Ezekiel's model and speak God's Words over yourself, your church and the Worldwide Church saying)* Lord, I speak over these dry bones, put Your Spirit in them. Give your life. Give your breath. Cover them with flesh so they can rise up and praise your name. Increase the knowledge that you are the Master and Lord. Send out your vast army to proclaim life and breath to valleys that are filled with dry bones. Amen

**Song:** Dry Bones & Dust – Dark Southern Gospel Blues | The Soulful Gentlemen (Official Audio) Gritty Soul -

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQ51DFXEuLk&list=RDRQ51DFXEuLk&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQ51DFXEuLk&list=RDRQ51DFXEuLk&start_radio=1)

**Saturday, March 28, 2026**

Read Matthew 21:1-11 in preparation for tomorrow's sermon.

Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026



Artwork by Suzanne Shockley

*This week's devotions were written by Leslie Wise*

**Read:** Matthew 21:1-11

**Reflect:** Imagine the scene written about in Matthew 21 as a painting. The jostling crowds were shouting Hosannas; palm branches were being cut and laid on the road. Imagine all the colors and kinds of coats lying in the road, Jesus sitting openly on a colt, prophecy fulfilled. He knew though, that in a matter of days, there would be no triumph as he would be hanging so cruelly from a cross. Jesus did not ride into town as the expected, a warrior king, full of pomp and glory. He is the King of the hearts of man, redeemer of souls. Welcome him with your hosannas today.

**Prayer:** Even though we may have palms in our hands, help us to honor You with our hearts today. We lay them before you like a coat on the road to Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 2026



*Artwork by Suzanne Shockley*

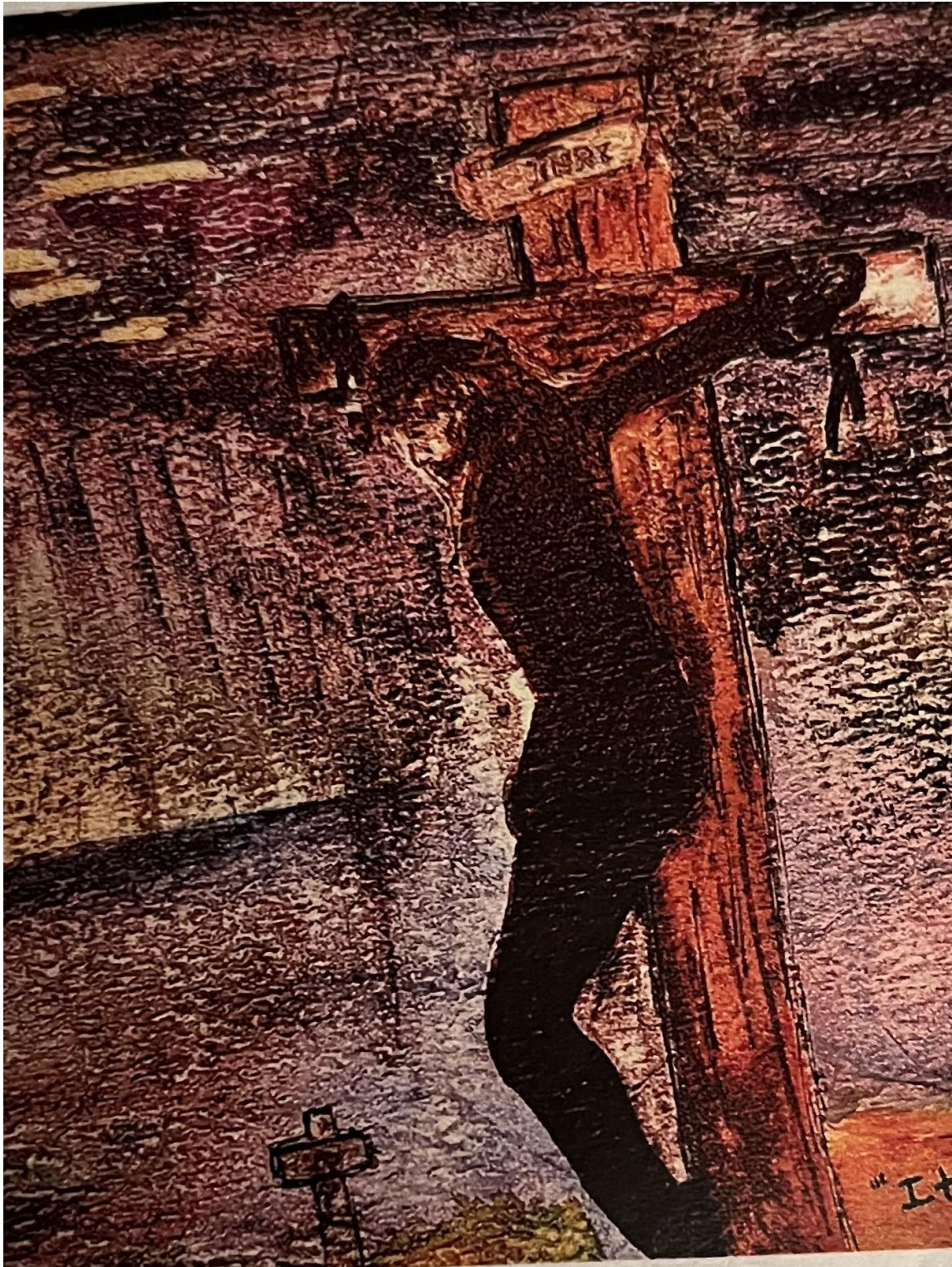
*Written by Leslie Wise*

**Read:** John 13: 1-17 and 31b-35

**Reflect:** The foot is often considered one of more lowly parts of the body. Yet it acts like a sturdy tugboat, faithfully delivering our bodily cargo to its destination. In John 13, Jesus girded himself to wash the disciples' feet. The Son of God knelt in humility before them to perform this act of love. There also exists a certain humility in exposing one's bare feet to another. We may be embarrassed by their condition. The toenails may be uncut. They may smell like sweaty gym socks or be gnarled by bunions or possibly calloused from our professions; an old pedicure may be chipped and worn. Are my feet too large or too wide? There exists all manner of embarrassment with the foot. Can we trust Jesus to be tender with our worn and dirty souls? It is not easy to expose our hearts to the Lord or others. If Jesus washed the feet of Judas, his betrayer, how more so will he love us unconditionally to the end.

**Prayer:** Thank you, Father, that we are wonderfully and fearfully made. No part of our body is too humble to receive Your loving care. Help us to care for our bodies, as the temples that they are.

Good Friday, April 3, 2026



*Artwork by Suzanne Shockley*



*Artwork by Suzanne Shockley*

*Written by Marilyn Loblely*

**Read:** Matthew 27:46

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?”—which means, “My God. My God, why have you forsaken me?”

**Reflection:** Have you ever felt abandoned by God? It is in dark times of trouble, grief, and pain that we most often feel God has left us and may ask, “My God, where are you?” Most of my focus on the crucifixion has always been on Jesus’ excruciating physical suffering, but lately I have come to realize that the emotional pain he endured may have been even worse. Jesus spent his entire life walking hand and hand with the Father and now, when he seems to need him the most, he feels abandoned. Imagine the incredible agony he must have experienced. Did God really abandon him? Or perhaps Jesus was experiencing his total humanity one last time. It is not for us to know.

When we are going through tough times, we should remember that we have a God who knows and understands. Someone who, like us, has experienced human pain and loss and suffering; who calls us to bring our wounds to be healed. And because he understands, he can empathize with us and give us these words of comfort: “Be not afraid, I have called you by name and you are mine.”.... “You are precious in my sight and I love you.” (Isaiah 43:1-4)

**Prayer:** Holy Father, thank you for sacrificing yourself so that we might live. Forgive us when we doubt your presence in our lives. By your grace, may we find peace, knowing that when you are silent you are merely manifesting your presence in another way.

**Saturday, April 6, 2026**

A day of waiting. The world holds its breath. Hope, fear, and doubt wrestle, first one on top and then the next. For what are *you* waiting? Ask God to meet you in that liminal space. God's ways are often surprising, but hope does not disappoint (Romans 5:5).

*Artwork by RP Weiford, Leslie Wise's father*



**Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026**



**He has risen, just as he said! Matthew 28:6**

What is God resurrecting in you?





**First Presbyterian Church of Ambler**  
**4 South Ridge Avenue • Ambler, PA 19002**  
**215.646.3030    [fpcambler.org](http://fpcambler.org)**

A place where lives are changed by Christ  
and we live out our faith together.

