### FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 14, 2021 - 10:30 AM

#### **Living Springs Lutheran Church**

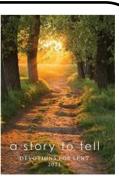
4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223 www.livingspringscolumbia.org

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.



## LENT 2021... A Story to Tell: God Is Love!





"...tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy the Lord has shown you!" (Mark 5:19 )

#### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We stand as able

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our

rock and our redeemer.

People: Amen.

Pastor: God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of

compassion.

(Silence for reflection - we kneel as able)

Pastor: Fountain of living water,

People: pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have

ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.

Pastor: Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the

wisdom and power of God, your sins are + forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the

way of Jesus.

People: Amen.



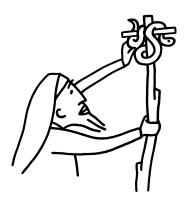
Christ, Be Our Light; Text: Bernadette Farrell; Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell Text and Music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727349. All rights reserved.

#### **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.



#### **KYRIE & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Pastor: For the peace from above

and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world,

for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For this community of faith, Pastor:

and all who offer their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord.

Pastor:

Help, save, comfort, and defend us Gracious Lord.

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from Pastor:

> the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for-

ever.

People: Amen.

We are seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Carl Taylor

Children, youth, and young at heart are invited for a special message. You may collect your coins or dollars at home for the bucket collection and bring them to Sanctuary worship, to the Parking Lot Worship, or drop them off at the church office. Current collection is for the World Hunger 40 Days of Giving.

For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap) For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)

Solid in our hope...

(God's movin' us) For-ward in faith!

Forward in faith (clap, clap, clap) Forward in faith (clap, clap, clap)

Keepin' our eyes on Jesus, We're runnin' the race!

#### FIRST READING

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

Lector: A reading from Numbers.

From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live. (Numbers 21:4-9)

Word of God, Word of life. Lector:

People: Thanks be to God.











PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

Lector: Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,

for God's mercy endures forever.

**People:** Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim

that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,

Lector: gathering them in from the lands;

from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

**People:** Some were fools and took rebellious paths;

through their sins they were afflicted.

Lector: They loathed all manner of food

and drew near to death's door.

**People:** Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD

and you delivered them from their distress.

Lector: You sent forth your word and healed them

and rescued them from the grave.

People: Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love

and your wonderful works for all people.

Lector: Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving

**People:** and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

#### SECOND READING

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

Lector: A reading from Ephesians.

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. (Ephesians 2:1-10)

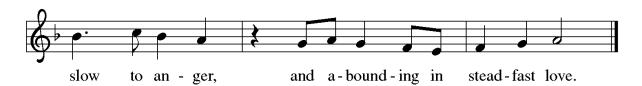
Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

We stand for the reading of the Gospel

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**





#### **GOSPEL LESSON**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John.

**People:** Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God." (John 3:14-21)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

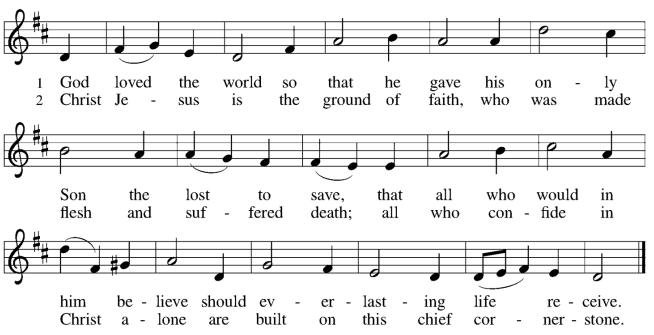
People: Praise to you, O Christ.

We are seated

MESSAGE Rev. Eric Fink

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

"God Loved the World"



God Loved the World; Text: "Gesangbuch", Bollhagen; tr., August Crull; Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller

#### **APOSTLES' CREED**

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Pastor: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

+ A brief silence +

Pastor: You sent your Son that the world might be saved through him. Inspire the witness of the church

throughout the world. Empower missionaries, Bible translators, and ministries of service in your name. Bless our partners in ministry, our global partner churches, and Young Adults in Global Mission. Hear us,

O God.

**People:** Your mercy is great.

Pastor: From east to west your steadfast love is shown. Nourish seas and deserts, wilderness areas and cities.

Give water to thirsty lands; nurture spring growth that feeds hungry creatures; bless farmers as they

prepare for the growing season. Hear us, O God.

**People:** Your mercy is great.

Pastor: You sustained your people in the wilderness. Give courage to all who lead in times of crisis and scarce

resources. Prosper the work of those who aid victims of famine and drought. Bring peace in places where

scarce resources cause violence. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Your mercy endures forever. Deliver all who cry to you, especially those who are hungry or without

homes. Give life in places where death seems triumphant; give healing to those who are sick and comfort to those who mourn. We pray especially for: *Vickie Crapps & family; Ed Brennan; Ann Lynn Caughman; Debbie Smith; Charles Kauffman; Inge Lowery; Margaret Blank; Bunie Talbert; Toni* 

Hollingsworth & family; Beverly Donahue; Bob Holmstrom; Kelly Koziol; Wilma Bracey; the Carter family;

Bob Halliday; Bill Winslow; Joseph Wehner; and those we name before you now, either silently or

aloud..., Hear us, O God.

**People:** Your mercy is great.

Pastor: By grace we have been saved. Fill this congregation to overflowing with that grace, that we show mercy

to others. Nourish any in our midst who are hungry, especially children, and bless our ministries of

feeding and shelter. Give us patience and courage when the way seems long. Hear us, O God.

**People:** Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Your Son was lifted up that whoever believes might have eternal life. We praise you for all who have

died in Christ. Bring us with all the saints into the fullness of your promises. Hear us, O God.

**People:** Your mercy is great.

Pastor: In these days of ongoing pandemic, we continue to pray for ..., let us pray.

**People:** Your mercy is great.

Pastor: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

**SHARING OF PEACE** 

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

We greet one another, with the words that the risen Jesus spoke to his disciples: "Peace be with you."



#### OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN

Offering may be dropped off at the office during the week or sent through the mail. For those who wish to give electronically, you may use the secure Givelify app.





#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread

from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**EUCHARISTIC DIALOGUE & PRAYER** 

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. **People:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it

to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the

remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

People: 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.

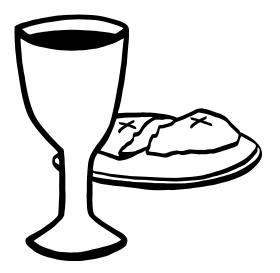
#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

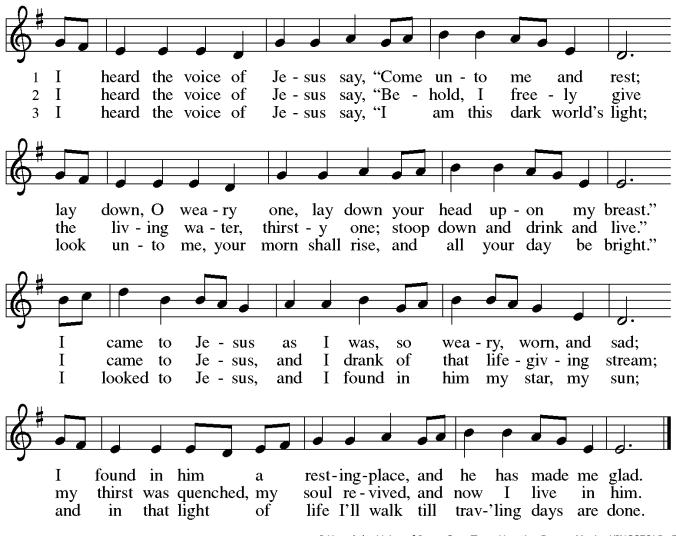
Pastor: Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

#### **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

ALL ARE WELCOME to partake of Holy Communion, for we believe this is the Lord's Meal (not ours) and open to Christians of any background, denomination, or tradition. As Lutheran Christians, we believe in the full presence of Christ in, with, and under the elements. During the COVID outbreak, we continue to temporarily utilize the sanitary-packaged individual communion elements. The wafer is located under the plastic film on top of the sealed cup - you can pull back the plastic film for the wafer, and then peel off the aluminum seal to open the cup. Feel free to either eat the wafer or drink the grape juice first, depending on which is easier for you to open. Separate individually-packaged GLUTEN-FREE wafers are also available.





I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say; Text: Horatius Bonar; Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

#### **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The body & blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

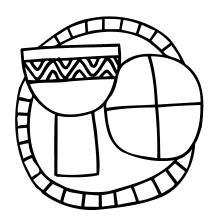
People: Amen.

Pastor: You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved,

freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you + that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and

life-giving Trinity.

People: Amen.

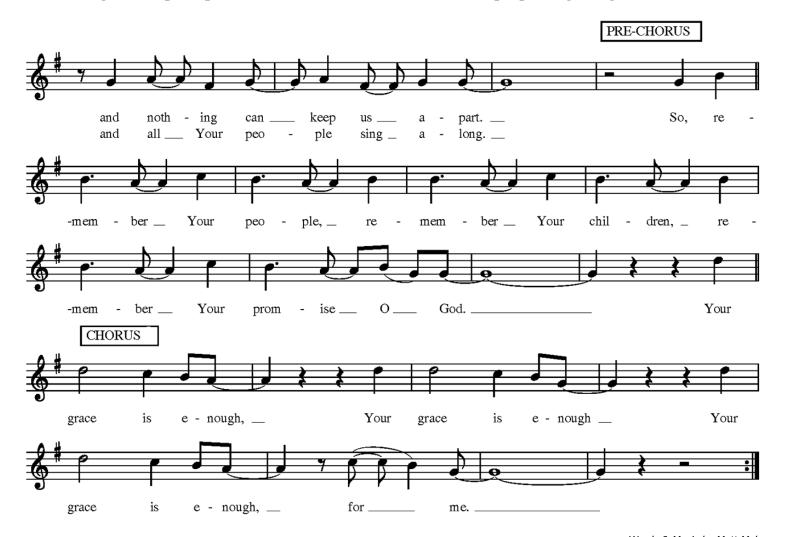


#### **SENDING SONG**

"Your Grace is Enough"

Verse 1
Great is Your faithfulness O God
You wrestle with the sinner's heart
You lead us by still waters into mercy
And nothing can keep us apart

Verse 2
Great is Your love and justice, God
You use the weak to lead the strong
You lead us in the song of Your salvation
And all Your people sing along



Words & Music by Matt Maher; CCLI Song # 4477026; © 2003 Thankyou Music; Used By Permission. CCLI License #11402641

#### **DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Go in peace. You have a story to tell - God is love!

**People: Thanks be to God.** 



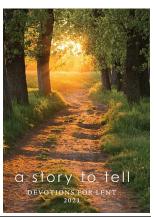
# LENT 2021... A Story to Tell: God Is Love!

MID-DAY LENTEN WORSHIP Tuesdays @ 12:00, Feb. 23 - Mar. 23

LENTEN DRAMA WORSHIP Wednesdays @ 6:00, Feb. 24 - Mar. 24

SPECIAL LENTEN DISCIPLE GROUPS (meet virtually)
& ONGOING BIBLE STUDIES

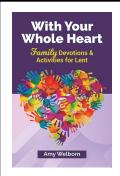


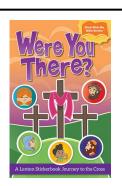


"A Story to Tell"
Daily Lenten Devotions
"God Is Love"
Pocket/Bag Medallions

5:19 Daily Prayer Alerts

(Mark 5:19 — "...tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy the Lord has shown you!")







Additional
Lenten Devotional Resources:
Families - "With Your Whole Heart"
Children -"Were You There?"
Teens - "Lent-stagram"



FRIDAY FOOD TRUCK "FISH FRY" - FISHIN' FELLAS

LS Parking Lot, 5:00-7:00

February 19, 26; March 5, 12, 19, 26

\$2000 goal for USC Campus Ministry



## 40 Days of Giving Hunger Calendars

We invite you to **study**, **pray**, **reflect** and **give** with us during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving — for our families, our neighbors and communities around the world.





#### MID-DAY WORSHIP (WITH COMMUNION) TUESDAYS @ 12:00, FEB. 23 - MAR. 23

## LENTEN DRAMA WORSHIP WEDNESDAYS @ 6:00, FEB. 24 - MAR. 24

In-Person (sanctuary) & live-streamed (YouTube & Facebook)
This Week - Rich Man (Steve Bloss & Marshall Hurlbert), Mark 10:17-27

#### **LENTEN DISCIPLE GROUP GATHERINGS!**

"Make-up" Sessions Offered This Sunday (
4pm virtual)

& Next Tuesday (12:45pm in sanctuary) for anyone who has not yet participated in a Lenten Disciple Group

Lent is a time for reflection and preparation. It is a time for listening to God and for contemplation. It is also a time for sharing how we see the Holy Spirit at work in our lives...how the Spirit tugs us to be disciples of Jesus. Everyone has been assigned to a Lenten Group that will gather virtually 1-2 times. Pastor Eric led a group with our Discipleship Leaders - it was very powerful to get to know each other and reflect on our call to be followers of Jesus. We each have a story to tell! You should be contacted by a Group Leader with a GoogleMeet link, but if not (or if you have a friend who would like to join), please feel free to contact the leader for a gathering that works for you (or call the office):

**Sunday, 3/14 @ 4pm** - "Makeup session" Google Meet

**Sunday, 3/16 @ 12:45pm** - "Makeup session" in sanctuary

**Sunday , 3/18 @ 7pm** - contact Dee/Jim Glander

**Sunday, 3/21 @ 3pm** - contact Karen Kranz/Jeff Lummel

**Sunday, 3/28 @ 5pm** - contact Adam Woodruff/Angie Dyches

**2nd Gathering TBA (youth focus)** - contact Leslie Bloss

**2nd Gathering TBA** - contact Raegan Prest **2nd Gathering TBA** - contact Steve Bloss

2nd Gathering TBA - contact Brantley/

Aaron Smith

**2nd Gathering TBA** - contact Steve/Kathryn Padgett

#### **LENTEN 5:19 PRAYER ALERTS**

During Lent, we are sending out daily "prayer alerts," with the prayer and scripture from each day's devotion. Alerts will be sent out at 5:19 PM, reminding us of Mark 5:19: "...tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy the Lord has shown you!"

"A Story to Tell" Daily Devotion Books and "God is Love" Pocket/Bag Medallions are being distributed today or stop by the office during the week. Additional Lenten Devotional Resources: Families - "With Your Whole Heart"

Families - "With Your Whole Heart" Children -"Were You There?" Teens - "Lent-stagram"



#### **LENTEN FISH FRY**

Feb. 19 Through Mar. 26 5 pm - 7 pm.

Because safety is our main priority and we are not able to socialize in the fellowship hall, the fish fry will be available through Fishin' Fellas, a food truck stationed in Blythewood that many of you are probably already familiar with. Of course, the fellowship, tired bodies, sore feet and entertainment will be greatly missed by all our many workers who made it possible for our success. The price of \$10 for each adult meal at Fishin' Fellas is a choice of: Flounder & a side; 10 ct. Shrimp & a side; Shrimp Taco & a side; or Fish (Flounder) Taco and a side. Sides: Fried Okra, Hush puppies; or Fries (adult meals include a water). Kids add-on: 4 ct. Shrimp & a side (\$5). The truck will be parked on our property every Friday in Lent (order directly from your vehicle), starting Feb. 19 and ending the Friday before Easter week Mar. 26. Time will be 5 pm - 7 pm.

#### THE MORE JUSTICE RALLY

#### March 22 at 6:30 pm

"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God." (Micah 6:8) The MORE Justice Rally is almost here: it's March 22 at 6:30 pm, online or drive-up. LS Network Members have committed to attend and can find details and Register at <a href="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLSdmYSz04BAjgcFlCZTNLzdE-wEgsEPOAw4t8KgRaYRR0vVXLA/viewform">https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLSdmYSz04BAjgcFlCZTNLzdE-wEgsEPOAw4t8KgRaYRR0vVXLA/viewform</a>. The Rally is when we prepare for the annual Nehemiah Action (April 26, at 6:30 pm). At Nehemiah we join with 35+other congregations to speak up for those affected by mental illness, lack of affordable housing, and gun violence. For more information contact Gail Buchanan, Helen Doerpinghaus, Mike Davidson, Gwen Furcron, Peg or Jim Zieche.



#### **40X40 LENTEN COLLECTION**

Small blankets (shawls, lap blankets) for local nursing homes; paper goods (paper towels, napkins) for homeless shelter and Palmetto Place; and backpack individual food items (cereal, applesauce/fruit cups, juice). A basket is available in the admin building. Our goal is 40X40=1600 total items.

#### **BACKPACK FOOD MINISTRY**

Would you like to help with packing the bags for our backpack program? Signup Genius has the schedule for the remainder of the school year. Two to three people can pack at a time or maybe you would like to do it as a family project? Contact Karen Kranz for details or questions. <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4baea92fa0f85-backpack">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4baea92fa0f85-backpack</a>.



#### HOPE MINISTRY PROJECT – CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

In support of patient's families of children who are undergoing treatment at the Children's Cancer & Blood Disorder unit on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of Prisma Children's Hospital, Living Springs is providing 24 meals on the third Thursday of each month. The meals are being delivered by our own LS members at Carolina Deli. Many of these families face the challenge of financial difficulties because of extensive medical expenses, missing work, longing to stay at the hospital with their children. To personalize this project, it will be an added comfort to include cards, pictures, poems with thoughts of comfort, words of encouragement, a handmade crochet or knitted square with an embroidered heart, etc.!! You can drop your cards or other care items off at the church on a continuing basis by the third Thursday and we will see they get delivered each month.



#### **YEAR-END GIVING SUMMARIES**

Giving Summaries and Thank-You's are available at the check-in table (or from the office during the week). For questions or corrections, contact Bill Franck at bfranck@sc.rr.com.

#### 2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your 2021 envelopes boxes are available at the check-in table (or from the office during the week). Please pick up your box and use your envelopes throughout the year. If you do not find a box assigned to you, please contact Bill Franck and he will get you a box. Children's offering envelopes are not assigned. However, if your children want envelopes, please take a box, record your child's name and the box number.

#### **FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT:**

Look and Live

The cure for the ancient Israelites, following Moses, is to look directly at what is killing them, rather than avoid or hide from it. Healing occurs in the confrontation.

In today's gospel, Jesus likens his crucifixion to Moses lifting up the serpent in the wilderness so the Israelites might be saved from the venom of desert snakes. In doing so, Jesus communicates that he came so we might look at what is killing us. He came to shine a light on that which poisons our lives so we might live.

In today's gospel, we catch Jesus in the middle of a conversation with a Pharisee named Nicodemus, who is slinking around in the night to get a word in with Jesus, presumably so he is not seen. In this conversation Jesus gives a judgment that shines a light on Nicodemus: you, Nicodemus, seem to prefer the darkness because there is something you are doing that you want to hide, thus making it easier for you to live in the dark. This sounds an awful lot like the experience of shame. Jesus is naming the way shame has dictated Nicodemus's life, relegating him to shadows where he will not be seen for what he really is. Notice the lack of condemnation. Jesus is simply a light, showing Nicodemus to himself.

Jesus is also a light to us, showing us to ourselves. Looking at Jesus lifted up on the cross, we see the poison that is killing us: power used to protect the status quo; our instinct to blame one in order to save the rest. We see the fruit of our defenses against what the light reveals: the death of an innocent man at the hands of those in power.

Christ has come so that we will see what is poisoning us and that, in seeing, we might turn and live.

#### **Starting MARCH 14**

\*\* Full Congregation Worship: Sundays @ 10:30 \*\*

You choose the option with which you're most comfortable @ 10:30

Sanctuary (Spaced Seating; Face Coverings)

Lawn (Bring Your Chair, Spaced Seating; Face Coverings)

**Vehicle** (Participate via Parking Lot Transmitter, 87.9FM, without face coverings)

Online (service will still be posted/streamed on YouTube, Facebook)

Ongoing Additional Sanctuary Option: Sundays @ 8:15

(Spaced Seating; Face Coverings)

Ongoing Midweek Lent (sanctuary) - Tuesday @ 12; Wednesday @ 6pm

(Spaced Seating & Face Coverings; Wednesday @ 6pm is also live-streamed!)

Starting March 14, those worshipping in sanctuary will have 2 Communion options: pre-packaged

March Book of the Month: Gospel of Mark