

## Note from Pastor Steve

Hosanna to the King! Jesus is the King, He has come so that we may have life and have it to the full. God came to earth to live among us and to be our faithful High Priest that experienced our sufferings and temptation. He has overcome death, even death on a cross. So that we may be restored to Him in all things.

As times go on the reality of the new way of life we find ourselves is become more clear. When we started this time of being physically separated it was one thing, but now stores are becoming more rigged, limits on items are starting to feel like the new norm rather than just for a storm that may last a week. And we are waiting. We are waiting to gather, waiting to come out of the house and begin to rebuild. It feels like we are in the middle of winter waiting for the world to thaw so that we can come out and live life again. The problem is the groundhog is giving us mixed signals of how many more weeks of winter we have left and our bodies yearn to be outside experiencing the spring that we see, but can not embrace.

The heart yearns for something more. There is a reason for this. We are made for more than this. We are made for more than just sitting at home, watching T.V. or being on the internet. We are made to worship. We are made to use our gifts and talents to worship God in creating, doing, exploring, going, and loving. My sister-in-law at the start of this posted pictures of spring cleaning, an act of restoring the home. What are you working to restore today? We might not be able to go out of our homes, but we can restore, we can write, we can create. Worship God today with using your gifts to show him love.

## Prayer Update from the Church Body.

Sharon and Donald Winstead have come down sick for the last couple of weeks. Sharon has asked us to be praying for, "Healing of all symptoms in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, Financial wisdom. To be able to rest spiritually, emotionally, and mentally in Jesus. To be able to ask people for help. For God to reveal Himself and His purpose to Donald and me in a way that we will never be the same."

### Prayer List

- Joyce Sear's Family
- Carolyn Norwood
- Barry's Brothers
- David Myers (Cancer)
- Judy Pollard (Health)
- Wayne Clark (Health)
- Sally Overton (Heart Surgery)
- Judy Pollard (Family's Health)
- Jackie Burke's Father
- John Fletcher (Health)
- Coronavirus Crisis
- Cindy Koontz's Son (Andy)
- Cecil Dale
- Wilma Stephens

## Tithes & Offerings

Just a reminder if you are wanting to give here are some options to support your church body. If you have questions please let Pastor Steve know. It is really important for us for you to continue to give to the work of the church.

### Way to Give

1. Online Giving through Website.
2. Mail.
3. Drop them off at the church building.

## Devotional Note— Where is God? By Dr. Carla Sunberg

### Scripture:

Mark 15:38 And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

### Observation:

The temple was not visible from the place where Jesus was crucified and yet, Mark inserts this additional detail because it is of utmost importance. This is presented as an act of God because, the inner curtain to the Holy of Holies was nearly ten meters high and would have taken super-natural strength to tear. The outer curtain was seen larger, about twenty-five meters high. We are not sure which curtain it was that was torn but, the rending of either curtain in the temple revealed the most holy place, making it open to view.

Throughout Mark's gospel we have seen that God's dwelling among his people has been in Jesus. When Jesus is with his followers, God is there in the midst. The place of God is no longer in the holy of holies, or in the temple, but is now among the people of his new covenant. This is revealed in the moment of the tearing of the curtain, leaving you with a sense that the Spirit of God had left the temple and was now to be among the people.

### Application:

Many people today are asking, "Where is God?" The challenges we are facing on a daily basis are greater than most of us have ever experienced. There is frustration with our circumstances and lots of folks wondering, "Where is God" in the midst of all this?

Others are asking whether this is something that God is doing to punish humanity. I don't think that's the case, because throughout history humanity has had to live with her choices, whether good or bad. That's the freedom that God gave us, but it comes with consequences, and brings us back to the question, "Where is God?"

God is here with us, in our pain and suffering. When the curtain was torn it was symbolic of an unleashing of God's holy presence that would now dwell among humankind. When God's people are filled with the Holy Spirit, we become the living stones of the temple. It's God's spirit-infused people who are the church in the world. So, where is God? God is with us, in us, and dwelling through us.

If that is the case, then the church remains alive and well, even when God's people cannot gather to worship. That's hard for us because this is Easter week. I don't recall ever not going to church on Easter. I still plan to go to church on Easter, only differently this year. I believe that the Spirit of God unites us all together in hearts and minds, because God is with us.

If you don't know where God is right now, then look to the cross. Jesus died for us, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, and the Spirit was unleashed to live within us and bring us peace. We can live through this season without fear, because of what Jesus has done and provided for us.

May the peace of God's Spirit be unleashed upon our hearts and minds today.

### Prayer:

Lord, this is a most unusual holy week for us, but I know that through our circumstances, you will lead us to the cross. Thank you for your suffering which brings us peace. Amen.