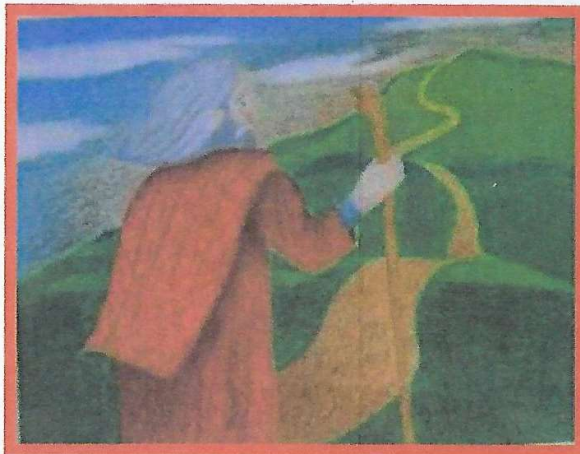


The Little Church on the Prairie Lakewood Grace



*Lenten Devotional
Booklet
2022*

Sojourners

**THE LITTLE CHURCH ON THE PRAIRIE
LAKEWOODGRACE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, USA
2022 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET**

How to Use This Booklet: Pick a quiet time each day during Lent for devotion. Start with a prayer. Then it is important to read the Bible passage before proceeding. The authors of these devotional messages assume that the Bible passages will have been read first, because the messages refer back to the Bible passage on the daily devotional page. Then reflect on what you have read and end with a prayer. It is a five-step process: Pray, read the Bible passage, read the message for that day, reflect and discuss, then close with a prayer. It is our hope that this devotional booklet will be a blessing to you each day of Lent. As you read each daily page, remember that you are connected to the author of each page through the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

About This Booklet: This year we once again reached out to members and friends of The Little Church on the Prairie and Lakewood*grace* to write a page for this booklet. Our theme for this year is: **SOJOURNERS**. During Lent the pastors will be emphasizing through the sermons that we are really voyagers passing through this life to the next. They will be using the stories about Abraham.

It is hoped that each contributor to this booklet will gain from the experience. It is also hoped that each person who uses this booklet will be moved to a deeper relationship with Jesus, will become a better disciple, and will be motivated to bring the good news of Jesus to others, showing the love of Jesus to all. It is also hoped that you will, through these devotional pages, receive a better understanding of the meaning of Lent and Easter.

About the Lenten Season: The term “Lent” comes from an Old English word that means springtime. The Lenten season is a time for spiritual preparation for Easter by remembering the suffering, death, and resurrection of Christ. Lent is the period between Ash Wednesday and Easter. The Lenten spiritual disciplines such as prayer, alms giving, and fasting are meant to help us realize our dependency on God for everything and to prepare our hearts to hear what God will say to us. May our Lord bless your spiritual journey this Lenten season.

Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022

JESUS STARTS HIS MINISTRY

READ: Isaiah 61:1-2; Luke 4:14-21

OPENING PRAYER: Dear Heavenly Father, open the eyes of our heart so that we can increase in wisdom and knowledge. Help us to be able to see Christ as he is truly revealed in scripture. Amen.

MEDITATION: After forty days of fasting and the three temptations from Satan, Jesus started his public ministry in Galilee. He read from the Old Testament that foretells the coming Messiah.

This incident is extremely wonderful and remarkable for a number of reasons. First, Christ read Isaiah 61:1-2a indicating that he was the chosen one, the anointed one from God. Second, Jesus stated that he was sent by God to bring the message of salvation to the poor, to heal, and to liberate the hearts and souls of people. Interestingly, Jesus broke off reading in the middle of a sentence. This indicates that Christ came the first time to fulfill the Messiah's prophecy of salvation. The remainder of the sentence is concerning the Messiah's second coming. Jesus came to give us hope and salvation to all who choose to believe in and follow him.

We are still living in the wonderful day of that gospel. The question for all of us is, do we really believe in him whom God has sent? Do we trust fully in Jesus' ability to save us, to forgive our sins, to renew our spirit, and to give us hope and courage? Do we rely on the Holy Spirit to lead and comfort us, even as we encounter the sometimes dreadful and significant storms of life?

CLOSING PRAYER: Lord, you promised that you have not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, love, and sound mind. Your promises never fail! We claim that promise. Amen.

Hans Brockhoff

Thursday, March 3, 2022

GOD KNOWS ME

READ: Psalm 139

OPENING PRAYER: Dear God, please open the eyes of my heart that I might begin to comprehend your unconditional love and the unfathomable gift of salvation. Amen.

MEDITATION: The words of Psalm 139 bring a warm, fuzzy feeling of comfort to the reader.... I am known! I am loved! I am accepted! Everything that my heart longs for can be found right here in this Psalm. The same God who knit me together, continues to hold me together. I will never be out of his sight. My soul is at peace.

However, these same words can be equally horrifying. **Every single thought** I have is known by God. Every poor choice that I have carefully hidden is revealed, every embarrassing mistake is laid bare. Even the sins that I promise myself I won't repeat, but inevitably will, God knows them all. Nothing can be hidden from him.

Yet with this shameful realization of just how truly "known" I am, a more powerful sense of reassurance washes over me. It is only in acknowledging the darkest parts of myself that I can begin to grasp the significance of God's atoning sacrifice, his unfailing love, and his complete forgiveness.

CLOSING PRAYER: Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalm 139:23-24). Amen.

Mary Mannering

Friday, March 4, 2022

FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

READ: Philippians 1:9-11

OPENING PRAYER: Lord, keep me focused on your unconditional love, rather than unnecessary worldly noise, so that I may show sincere love to others through Christ. Amen.

MEDITATION: Paul writes about how we should love unconditionally, using our head and testing our feelings to ensure we're showing sincere love.

Paul wrote this to the Philippians while he was in prison. He was showing them he was going to be joyful and fearless in all circumstances. He wanted them to do the same.

Paul wanted the Philippians to be united in Christ and to continue to love and help each other. He prayed that their love would grow. Paul didn't want them to argue about things that didn't matter, but rather to be understanding and to find a common ground to unite with others.

Even those who do not believe in Christ may come to the faith because of love. Love never fails.

CLOSING THOUGHT: Paul showed his love for the Philippians by praying for them. He prayed that they would grow and mature in their walk with God. You can pray for people you love too and strive to show the unconditional love of God.

June Fields

Saturday, March 5, 2022

WALK IN WISDOM

READ: Proverbs 3:21-26

OPENING PRAYER: Lord, please prepare my heart, mind, and eyes to receive your blessings and trust in the paths you prepare and reveal for me. Amen.

MEDITATION: We tend to get wiser as we get older. There are sayings like "wise beyond their years." Wisdom is something valued and cherished, and spoken about like something acquired over time.

I am a teacher, so I deal with knowledge all the time, which has something to do with wisdom, but not everything. We live in a world filled with knowledge, in many ways, a world with more knowledge than we've ever had before. Knowledge feels like something that is always growing. Think about all the things you've learned in the past week, or even the past year. Think of the lessons you've learned over the course of your life.

What makes some lessons stick with us for so long? Why do some lessons seem more important than others? This is where wisdom begins to enter the picture, and what I think about as I read this passage. No matter how much we know, there is always something more to know. We do not know the future, and we never know the full consequences of any of our choices. Still, there are good choices and bad choices, and separating out the good from the bad is the work of wisdom.

The lessons that stick with me aren't filled with more knowledge. They are filled with more wisdom. If knowledge is our guide, then we will always be left wanting more. We need wisdom to find peace and have faith in the path we walk. Wisdom has an eternal quality. I believe because wisdom comes from God. We gain wisdom when we experience God's presence in our lives.

CLOSING PRAYER: Lord, thank you for walking with me and giving the gift of wisdom, to guide me and assure me in only the ways you can. Amen.

Tim Chalberg