

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

I have sometimes heard people express boredom with hearing the same Biblical stories over and over, year after year. While I can understand their perspective, I personally appreciate the repetitive nature of the church year's cycle. If I knew everything there was to know about any particular verse, perhaps I'd feel the same boredom. But I still have so much to learn, so I'm glad for the opportunity to take another stab at it and try to learn a little bit more than I knew the year before.

I especially feel this way during Holy Week. There's just so much to learn. What I do know is that if we don't dive in to Holy Week...truly dive in...then we will have missed out on so much beauty and power and awe, when we get to the end of it. Arriving at the Empty Tomb of Easter, without having gone through the days leading up to it...well, it feels a little hollow. How can we feel the full weight of what God has done for us in Christ's Resurrection if we don't know the whole story of what it cost Jesus to get there?

So I invite you to join me and the rest of your First Christian family for a meaningful Holy Week. *Palm Sunday* (March 29) will be a celebration of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, the day people were finally able to proclaim out loud that he was the Messiah! Then, on Thursday (April 2), we'll gather for *Maundy Thursday* supper and worship, a service of remembrance of the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples followed by his betrayal at the hands of one of them. On *Good Friday* (April 3), we will gather for a brief service to remember Christ's death on the Cross, followed by a twelve-hour prayer vigil (please let me know if you'd like to be a part of this). Finally, on *Easter* morning (April 5), after an all-church breakfast, we'll celebrate Christ's Resurrection with a lovely, joyful time of worship.

This year, I encourage you to go the distance with Holy Week. Every step along the way helps us understand the full picture of God's love for us, and how far he is willing to go to give it to us. I am thankful to be celebrating this sacred time with you.

Pastor Kara

