



Easter Promises...

an empty tomb, an open sky, a risen Savior.

Easter Promises...

*the gift of Christ to us, the joy of Christ in us
forevermore.*

Dear Emmanuel Friends:

I hope you are experiencing a holy and meaningful Lent.

These 40 days of contemplating Jesus Christ's time in the wilderness offer an opportunity to strengthen our faith and renew our commitment to the Lord.

In trials and triumphs alike, it is our faith that sustains us. At Emmanuel it is our constant desire to grow in faith and love under the guidance of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The story of Nicodemus in the Gospel of John, Chapter 3, reminds us of what Jesus considered a living faith.

Jesus told Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader, that anyone who wishes to enter the Kingdom of God must be "born again."

When Nicodemus asked how one could be born twice, Jesus explained that the second birth is "of water and of the spirit." Foreshadowing his own death and resurrection, Jesus said "the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes will have eternal life in him."

What does this mean for you and me? It signifies the importance of placing our faith in Jesus, allowing him into our hearts and souls, putting him at the center of our lives.

As John's Gospel says: God loves us so much that he sent his only son that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. This is the supreme act of love — a gift to save the world and to transform lives through our Savior Jesus Christ.

This is what we celebrate at Emmanuel during Holy Week. The services include:

April 14, Palm Sunday, focusing on Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem and the Passion of Our Lord.

Thursday, April 18, Maundy Thursday, remembering the Last Supper and Christ's teaching the disciples what it means to serve others. The Rev. Wayne Storey will lead.

On Good Friday, April 19, we will retrace Christ's steps in the Way of the Cross which features slides from the Holy Land depicting his death and resurrection.

Finally, we will celebrate Jesus's victory over death on Easter Sunday in a service led by the Rev. Jerry Wichelns.

There will also be an Easter Egg hunt for children following the service. Sunday services are at 9:30 a.m., the evening services at 7 p.m.

We hope you will join us for these meaningful events. Most of all, let us dedicate ourselves to Jesus Christ, the savior of the world who calls us to faith, love, and life eternal.

May God richly bless you this Holy Week and always.

John McFadden, Warden