

ALONE

The ones who'd followed drew away
The night the Master knelt to pray
Beside the garden stone.
The three their vigil couldn't keep.
Instead they dozed and feel asleep
And left Him quite alone.
No others shared His thoughts that night
For they possessed restricted sight.
They saw a mortal throne.
The cup His prayer could not remove
Time, too, He knew was sure to prove
As His and His alone.
By Peter thrice He was denied.
The one He'd cherished left and lied
About the man they'd known.
On His behalf none spoke a word
To Him it must have oft occurred
How much He was alone.

THE MIRACLE OF EASTER

All nature cried that dark, drear day
When Christ hung on the cross,
While darkness filled the heavens above
Earth trembled at the loss.
The sad disciples' hearts were wrung
With grief for all to see,
They saw no hope, for lo, their Lord
Had died on Calvary.
But hope and life came with the dawn
Of glorious Easter Day,
"The Lord is risen," were the words
The lilies seemed to say.
All nature thrilled and cried in tune
"A victory is won.
Our Lord has risen from the dead
New life has now begun".

SOUTH COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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MARCH 2024

MORNING WORSHIP 9:30 A.M.
SUNDAY SCHOOL 11: 00 A.M.

PASTOR JIM MORT

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Vision Statement

We are a family united by God's love: serving, sharing and growing together. It is our mission to call people into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Holy Week and Bucket Lists

This year Holy Week is March 24 – March 30. It is easy for us to focus on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. We sometimes do not grasp how much of Jesus' teachings etc. occurred during this week. Here is a partial list of what Jesus did that week.

Sunday – Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. (Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-40, John 12:12-19)

Monday – Jesus clears the temple for a second time. (Matthew 21:12-17, Mark 11:15-19, Luke 19:45-48) The first time happened in John 2:13-17

Tuesday – Jesus' answers questions about marriage in heaven, paying taxes, and the greatest commandment. (Matthew 21:23-27, Mark 11:27-33, Luke 20:1-8) Jesus teaches in the temple courtyard. (Matthew 21:23-27, Mark 12:1-40, Luke 20:9-47)

Wednesday - The gospels do not say what Jesus did. He may have spent the day in Bethany with his disciples.

Thursday – Jesus shares the Last Supper with his disciples. (Matthew 26:20-30, Mark 15:17-26, Luke 22:14-30, John 13:21-30) Jesus washes the disciple's feet and gives them a new commandment. (John 13:1-20) Jesus is betrayed and arrested. (Matthew 26:47-56, Mark 14:43-52, Luke 22:47-53, John 18:2-12)

Friday – Jesus is put on trial by both Jewish and Roman authorities. (Matthew 26:57-27:2, Mark 14:53-15:20, Luke 22:54-23:25, John 18:13-19:16) Jesus is crucified. (Matthew 27:31-56, Mark 15:20-41, Luke 23:26-49, John 19:17-37) Jesus' body is placed in the tomb.

(Matthew 27:57-61, Mark 15:42-47, Luke 23:50-56, John 19:38-42) I cannot help but contrast this with people's bucket lists; that list of things they want to accomplish before their time here is ended. The things on most people's lists are centered around where they will do and what things will make them happy. Looking at what Jesus did his last week here, I would say that his bucket list was all about God and telling others about God.

We are unlike Jesus in that we do not know how much longer we will be here. But we can be like Jesus and make our life about Jesus and telling others about Jesus on our bucket lists.

Blessings,

Pastor Jim

SYMBOL OF LOVE

Easter comes in its own good time
And nature's beauty grows sublime.
We hear sweet echoes rise and swell
From silver tones of Easter bells.

And from the distance a lone bird's cry
And there against the sunset sky,
A cross outlined in stark relief
A symbol of love and true belief;
So near the cross is to a star
Like a benediction from afar.

With echoing bells upon the breeze
We bow in thanks for gifts like these.
All worthy gifts are highly priced
So bow and worship the Risen Christ.

EASTER PROMISE

It sometimes seems that wintertime
Will last forevermore,
And snow and sleet and biting winds
Are all life holds in store.

But suddenly a miracle
Takes place before our eyes...
The grass turns green and tulips bloom
Beneath bright springtime skies.

Thus is God's Easter pledge fulfilled
With every year that goes –
That life will spring from seeming death
As Christ the Savior rose.

FINANCES:

Receipts for January - \$ 3,393.00

Disbursements for January - \$ 4,432.36

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

11- Janice Smith

16- Sheryl Anderson

MARCH

March is bold, I do declare,
Taking folks so unaware,
Whisking hats from off the head,
Tearing news before it's read...

Chasing anything is sight,
Whistling at the doors all night,
Tossing ladies' hats awry,
Snapping clotheslines on the sly...

Howling in the wildest glee,
Stripping branches off a tree,
Just a scamp from end to end
Yet children call him friend.

He it is who lifts their kites
Far above the chimney sights,
Joining in their boisterous fun,
Playing tag with everyone.

He is just a child a heart,
Playing tricks and being smart.
Let's forgive him since we know
April soon will steal his show.

DAFFODILS

Spring has away of painting
The meadow with delight,
With all the crowning glory
Of the daffodils so bright!

For beams of yellow sunshine
From a watercolor sky
Seem to cast their glow of magic
All along the countryside.

Until there comes the moment
When the brilliancy is spun,
And the flowers meek and golden
Lift their faces to the sun.

Then is the day exultant
Where all of April smiles.
My joy is wrapped in wonder,
And my way is dream-beguiled.

TULIPS

We tucked the bulbs within the earth
To wait till springtime gave them birth.

For five long months through winter snow,
We thought about the bulbs below.

Till March arrived, then up came spears,
Waving leaves like rabbit ears.

Then tall green stems began to rise
As raindrops fell out of the skies.

In April sun their sups unfolded,
Scarlet, pink, white and golden.

A heavenly beauty glows in each cup
As tulips lift their chalice up.