

March 7, 2021 – Third Sunday in Lent



We have begun offering a 15-minute Service of Confession and Communion at the church on Sundays at 11 a.m. CDC guidelines for social distancing and mask-wearing are being followed. Full-length worship service videos continue to be available online. On Palm Sunday, March 28th, we will return to full-length in-person worship services on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. These services will be livestreamed for those who wish to continue worshipping at home.



Let's Talk! *Sundays throughout Lent*

All are invited to view a pre-recorded weekly message from Pastor Kat, posted every Sunday throughout Lent. The video will be shared via email and the Friends and Family Facebook page. You are encouraged to pray, discuss, and reminisce. A summary of thoughts from the community will be shared anonymously on Wednesdays.

Let's Talk LIVE! *Wednesdays at 7 p.m. during Lent*

Join the conversation via Zoom on Wednesday evenings. Led by Pastor Kat, we will take time to discuss, share, and pray with one another. The link to join the meeting will be sent from the church office on Wednesday mornings.



Please continue to support Zion's ministries with your offerings and prayers.

Financial contributions can be mailed to P.O. Box 41, Oldwick, NJ 08858.



Middle schoolers (grades 6-8) are invited to Cross Roads Virtual Youth Retreat on Saturday, March 13. From 10 am - 12 pm, we will gather on Zoom to EXPLORE the ways God is present in our world and in our lives.

The \$15 fee for the retreat will be paid by Zion's Youth Activities account. If you are interested in attending, please email Rhonda Rossi at youth@zionoldwick.com.

Flemington Area Food Pantry donation list – Supporting the “Food2You” Program

The Food2You program represents a partnership between the Flemington Food Pantry and the Hunterdon Healthcare System. Social workers identify people who are being released from the hospital after surgery/illness and refer them to the Food Pantry. The Food Pantry assigns a “driver” to identify an individual’s food needs and deliver food to them. They often have different food needs given they are mostly elderly, live alone and have simplified diets. Please see the list below for the items that are most needed. **During the pandemic, it has been even more critical to ensure that these clients receive the nutrition they need. Currently there are 30 clients in this program.**

Food2You Donation List

- Single pack tuna fish pouches
- Half-sized canned vegetables
- ENSURE – vanilla and chocolate
- Small plastic bottles of cranberry or orange juice
- Individual servings of applesauce



We will continue to deliver ALL donations for the Flemington Area Food Pantry, including items from the broader list on their website.

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

¹God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Gospel: John 2:13-22

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Members

- + **Dillon**, *who continues his healing.*
- + **Linda Herder**, *who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.*
- + **Donna Hunter**, *who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.*
- + **Eleanor Kover**, *who is recovering from breast cancer surgery.*
- + **Bonnie Summer**, *who is undergoing rehabilitation and recovering at home.*
- + **Ted Talis**, *who is recovering at home.*
- + **Paul Zerfas**, *who has undergone his second stem cell transplant.*

Friends and Family

- + **Joe Capobianco**, *cousin of Barbara Polhemus, who is recovering from open heart surgery.*
- + **Ralph Cortese**, *brother of Angela Sztuk, who has cancer and is recovering from surgery.*
- + **Marianne Evanouskas**, *sister-in-law of Eleanor Kover, who is recovering from intestinal surgery.*
- + **Marianna Evanouskas**, *sister-in-law of Eleanor Kover, who is recovering from a mastectomy.*
- + **Chris Fetner**, *friend of Marjorie Mitchell (friend of Zion), who has cancer.*
- + **Joey Giambrone**, *friend of Susannah Allen, who is in critical condition following open heart surgery.*
- + **Bill Gibbs**, *relative of the Formalarie family, who has ALS.*
- + **Rita Gorky**, *mother of Paul Gorky, who is recovering from a stroke, is limited in verbal expression and needs daily assistance.*
- + **Judy Graham**, *friend of Marjorie Mitchell (friend of Zion), who has breast cancer.*
- + **Dee Johnson**, *friend of Richard & Yana Morris, who is recovering from a kidney and pancreas transplant.*
- + **Nancy Kastrup**, *friend of Kathy Rustwick, who is recovering from surgery.*
- + **Kenny Kaszyk**, *brother of Amanda Smith, who is in a coma brought on by multiple seizures.*
- + **Sally Kohl**, *mother of Stacey Rothermel, who is struggling with Parkinson's disease.*
- + **Susan Miluk**, *sister of Jim Dierking, who is recovering from COVID-19 and will soon resume treatment for multiple myeloma.*
- + **Lonn Mullen**, *friend of Eric Evers, who will be undergoing surgery for bile duct cancer.*
- + **Jim Price**, *friend of Jim & Linda Dierking, who is recovering from surgery for a malignant melanoma.*
- + **Pat Thompson**, *friend of Sandy Matsen, who is hospitalized.*
- + **Deb Wojtysiak**, *friend of Cheryl Rodrick, who is battling stage 5 kidney disease.*

Those in the Armed Services

Lindsay Carrick, Daemon Durham, Christopher Grinnell, Robert Heinke, Erik Lindquist, Hunter MacKenzie, David Maravel, Cody McAleer, Gilbert Mercedes, Patty Oelschlager, Kurt Rossi, Elizabeth Snyder, Daniel Wort, Joshua Wort

Suggested prayer for those with health concerns:

Almighty and merciful God, you are the only source of health and healing; you alone can bring calmness and peace. Grant to our sisters and brothers an awareness of your presence and a strong confidence in you. In their pain, weariness, and anxiety, surround them with your care, protect them by your loving might, and grant to them once again the gifts of health and strength and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Suggested prayer for military members:

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces, and all who serve this country at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils that surround them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.