

Another Word March 29, 2022

To Our Family and Friends of First Christian

Our in depth look at the last two days of Jesus' life through this Lent season has been so meaningful. To understand the torment and anguish that Jesus had to endure helps us feel the depth of the sacrifice he made for us and the obvious love that God has for us. We hope you can continue to join us either in the sanctuary or through our live streaming for the remainder of the Lent season.

Our scriptures for this coming Sunday are Mark 15: 20-39 read by Shelley Carpenter. Pastor Rich's message is "Golgotha, The Place of the Skull." Todd Whitmer is serving Elder and will be reading Psalm 34.

There will be a Maundy Thursday service on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00. If you cannot join us in the sanctuary, the service will be live streamed. You won't want to miss this as Rich and Brian always make this service memorable. You might want to add it to your calendar now.

We would like to take small Easter baskets to our shut-ins. If you would like to add any crackers or wrapped candy to these baskets, please just bring that in by April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father,

We know you hear the prayers that stay as unspoken sighs. Watch over us as we struggle to walk the way of the cross. Do not let us escape the pain of your Son's holy passion, but grant that your life and peace may find new expressions in all we do and say.

Amen

Here is a story that might be familiar to you but still has some very special meaning for us all:

An elderly woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which she carried across her neck.

One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water.

At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water.. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments.

But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfections, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the woman one day by the stream.

‘I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house’

The old woman smiled, ‘Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot’s side?’

‘That’s because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them.’

For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table.

Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house.

Each of us has our own unique flaw. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. So, take each person for what they are and remember their unique difference is what God gave them for a purpose.

In His Peace.

Ellie & Linda