LECTIONARY READINGS

April 5
Passion/Palm Sunday
Liturgy of the Palms
Matthew 21:1-11
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Liturgy of the Passion
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54

April 12
Easter Sunday
Acts 30:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

April 19
2nd Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

April 26
3rd Sunday of Easter
Native American Ministries Sunday (Offering)
Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23

Been watching the news lately?

I have. Far too much. Maybe—probably—you have too.

Finding any good news there? Me neither. At least not much. Sickness, death, politics. Except that the news is now focused on COVID-19, it’s the same old same old.

There isn’t any good news. One of the big networks’ stars spoke at a national Farm Bureau convention back in the 1980s. My dad told me about it. The new anchor (I don’t recall his name) said there isn’t any good news on TV. Good isn’t news. Bad is news. Good is normal. Therefore, good isn’t news.

So where do we go for good news … now that Paul Harvey’s no longer with us?

Cards or eating out with friends is no longer available to us. But we all still have a phone and the internet to keep up with family and friends. At our house we’ve been watching Hallmark and Turner Classic movies. We phone and Facebook friends. I’ve been going to ministry sites, including the church page and web address. (fairfieldbayumc.org and Fairfield Bay United Methodist Church) I’ve read several good books. And I’m listening to a few good preachers. I’ve even been listening to myself!

Which brings me to the real good news. (You knew this was coming, didn’t you?) The real good news is found in one place. Real truth is found in one place. God’s Word is truth. “Thy word is truth.” (John 17:17)

“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.” (Romans 1:16)

The Gospel—the Good News—is the power of God unto deliverance for everyone who believes it. Want to be delivered from anything and everything? Believe what God says. You can know what He says by spending time reading, studying, and meditating on the Word. It’s good news. It tells us who we are, what we can do, and what we have because of His work in Jesus. It’s always good news.

Are you looking for something uplifting, some good news that’s actually true, not just Polyannaish? Listen to God. Listen to Him in the Bible and listen to Him in your spirit as you fellowship pray. Too little of our praying is just listening for what He’s saying to us. This is how our decisions are directed. This is how we know how to pray.

Peace, calmness, freedom, healing, life, prosperity, guidance are all found in listening to God.

“I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

All God’s plans for us are for our good. We may forget about that truth, but read also what He continues to say.

“In those days when you pray, I will listen. 13 If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. 14 I will be found by you,” says the LORD. “I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes.”  

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FROM THE TREASURER
2020 Budget 216,459.05
Expenses Year to Date 51,755.86
Receipts Year to Date 42,907.40
Over or (short) (8,848.46)
This report is thru March 30, not all bills may have been paid.

(continued from page 1)
When we pray, the Lord listens. When we seek Him instead of focusing on the work of the enemy—disease, storms, disasters—He ends our bondage and restores our fortunes.

As we stand against the things of the devil (and everything that steals, kills, or destroys is of the devil), God’s able to get to us and through us what He’s promised.

We have a choice: we can believe God or believe the enemy. Faith in the enemy comes as we hear and hear his word. (Can you say, “The news?”) Faith in God’s freedom comes was we hear and hear His word. It’s our choice.

“I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. 16 If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping His commandments and His statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping His commandments and His statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land.” (Deuteronomy 30:15-16)

The Lord has said, “Life is over here; cursing and death is over there. You get to choose which one you have. I’ll give you a hint: Choose life.”

The news or the Good News. Which will you choose?

USHER SCHEDULE
Schedule for April:
5th: Linn & Ken Meseke, Rebecca & Jeff Jenkins and Henry & Charlene Burge

12th: Karen Evans, Barbara McClary and Scott McClary

19th: Bill Bain, Jim & Gail McKnight and Ken & Laurie Beckwith

26th: Patsy Weidanz, Debra Lutz, Steve & Shirley Sutay, Neva Erickson and Chris Lang

If you are interested in joining the usher team please call Linn Meseke at 884-6693. Anyone is welcome.

Liturgists for April: Deena McAllister, Mike McAllister, Brenda Smith and Marge Fleischer

Communion Servers: Jeff and Rebecca Jenkins and Neva Erickson

April Greeters: Debra Lutz
Substitutes: Dixie Lee and Barbara McClary.

FELLOWSHIP TIME FOR APRIL
Jeff & Rebecca Jenkins and Roger & Barbara Lafoon are responsible for fellowship time in April.