

Seasonal Notebook - Lent



Lent 2019 (Year C)

Planning: January, 2019

Implementation: March 6-April 20, 2019

SEASON SUMMARY

Lent

Lent is a season that invites us to deeper self-reflection, confession, and self-denial. The 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays) mirror the 40 days of Jesus' wilderness temptation. Repentance, Fasting, and Almsgiving are three traditional disciplines that Christians have followed during this season. Fasting often takes the form of abstaining from something for the whole season or for certain days, though taking discipline on can also be a form of fasting - of giving up one's time or attention in discipleship. During Lent, we "bury the alleluia" - meaning we don't sing songs or use liturgical elements that have either Alleluia or Hallelujah. This reflects the more sober tone of the season. While, technically, the Sundays in Lent are outside of the Lenten season itself (Sundays were considered to be always "mini-Easters," celebrating the risen Christ), and we could use Alleluias in Sunday worship, since we don't often gather outside of Sundays it is helpful to carry the practice through. Purple is the liturgical color for Lent.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season. It is usually a service of repentance, featuring confessional prayer and the opportunity to receive the mark of ashes as a sign of our mortality. The imposition of ashes is a many-faceted ritual that has come to symbolize a commitment to undertake a season of reflection and penitence as we walk toward the cross with Christ.

We have generally observed Ash Wednesday with a noon service that includes the imposition of ashes.

Palm Sunday

The Sunday before Easter Sunday is when we have generally celebrated Christ's "triumphal entry" into Jerusalem. This may include actual palm branches, a processional, or other parade-like acts. Palm branches must be ordered well in advance—please coordinate with the office ASAP if you wish to observe Palm Sunday with fresh palm branches. Easter flowers (in memory or honor) will also

need to be ordered in coordination with the church office. Plan for advertising in the Nous and Bulletin.

Holy Week

We have generally observed both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday with evening worship services.

*Maundy Thursday (from the Latin “mandatum novum”—a “new commandment”) commemorates the night of the Last Supper, and our service has often included foot/hand washing and communion.

*Good Friday (the day we recall Jesus’ death on the cross) has often been a reading of the passion in a tenebrae-style service of shadows

Some years have included either a “Shrove Tuesday” (day before Ash Wednesday) pancake dinner or a simple soup lunch following the Ash Wednesday service.

Each year we seek to provide a Lenten devotional that can be used by church members at home, ideally coordinated with the rest of the season.

One Great Hour of Sharing

This is a denominational special offering that supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the PCUSA Self Development of People program. It often includes fish-shaped coin banks. OGHS may be received throughout the season, on Palm Sunday, or on Easter. Please coordinate with Easter team. Plan for advertising the offering and distributing banks.

Additional events are at the discretion of the Season Team.

Scripture Readings

Ash Wednesday

First Reading Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

First Reading (Alternate) Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalm 51:1-17

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Gospel Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

1st Sunday in Lent

First Reading Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Second Reading Romans 10:8b-13

Gospel Luke 4:1-13

2nd Sunday in Lent

First Reading Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Second Reading Philippians 3:17-4:1

Gospel Luke 13:31-35

3rd Sunday in Lent

First Reading Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 63:1-8

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Gospel Luke 13:1-9

4th Sunday in Lent

First Reading Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Gospel Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

5th Sunday in Lent

First Reading Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

Second Reading Philippians 3:4b-14

Gospel John 12:1-8

6th Sunday in Lent: Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms Luke 19:28-40

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Liturgy of the Passion Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Second Reading Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel Luke 22:14-23:56

Gospel (Alternate) Luke 23:1-49 (Alternate)

Holy Week Monday

First Reading Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 36:5-11

Second Reading Hebrews 9:11-15

Gospel John 12:1-11

Holy Week Tuesday

First Reading Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 71:1-14

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Gospel John 12:20-36

Holy Week Wednesday

First Reading Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 70

Second Reading Hebrews 12:1-3

Gospel John 13:21-32

Maundy Thursday

First Reading Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Gospel John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday

First Reading Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalm 22

Second Reading Hebrews 10:16-25

Second Reading (Alternate) Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9 (Alternate)

Gospel John 18:1-19:42

NOTES

SEASON WORKSHEET

THEME:

WORSHIP AND MUSIC IDEAS

(Overall as well as for particular services - think through music, decor, art, liturgical elements, congregational songs and responses, playground coordination, special services, etc....)

When will we celebrate Communion? (dates need to be approved by the Session)

EDUCATION IDEAS:

(consider all ages and stages, formats, days, times, etc...)

TAKE-HOMES/FAMILY RITUALS:

(each season should have some "take-home" practice or tangible item that can help families connect with the Scriptures and season at home.)

MISSION IDEAS:

(Include denominational offerings, if applicable. Check calendars for regularly scheduled opportunities. Plan or connect with at least one mission opportunity that can be opened up to the congregation for the season)

FELLOWSHIP IDEAS:

PUBLICITY PLANS

(Think of how we can intentionally reach out to our neighbors and community, as well)

PLANS FOR NURTURE, INCLUDING LEADERSHIP FOR ALL AGES

REGULAR VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Liturgists and Communion Servers

The liturgist meets in advance of the worship service with the pastor to plan and lead worship. Members of the Seasonal Team are encouraged to sign up for this, and recruit others who would bring particular gifts to the season and worship services. Any slots unfilled will be filled by the pastor. On days when communion is served, we need 3 ordained elders in addition to the pastor signed up to serve. If the Liturgist is ordained, only 2 additional elders are needed.

Date	Name	Email and Phone Number
3/6 (Ash Wed)		
3/10		
3/17		
3/24		
3/31		
4/7		
Server 1		
Server 2		
Server 3		
4/14 (Palms)		
4/18 (MT)		
Server 1		
Server 2		
Server 3		
4/19 (GF)		

Volunteers with Children

Each week a volunteer is needed to sit with the children in the playground and provide nursery backup if needed.

Date	Name	Email and Phone Number
3/10		
3/17		
3/24		
3/31		
4/7		
4/14		

Coffee/Fellowship

These volunteers must arrive early enough to set up coffee, tea and snacks. Following fellowship hour the volunteers are required to clean up; including washing dishes, wiping down tables, and throwing away all trash. This can be done by one person/family who comes early and stays late or by two volunteers who split the work.

Date	Name	Email and Phone Number
3/10		
3/17		
3/24		
3/31		
4/7		
4/14		

SPECIAL BUDGETARY NEEDS

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Cost

MISSION IDEAS (YOU'RE NOT LIMITED TO THESE!)

- Alternative giving in lieu of lilies or tulips
- Open Doors (if applicable)
- One Great Hour of Sharing/Presbyterian Disaster
- Clothes Closet

ADD YOUR OWN IDEAS HERE!

EVALUATION NOTES

What went well? What was “meh”? What didn’t go well? What advice would you give to future teams?