

Geneva Presbyterian Church

2016 LENTEN AND EASTER SERVICES



LENTEN READINGS

During the Sundays of Lent we will extinguish one purple candle in our crown of thorns wreath each week with a reading by Paul Dyck as a way to count the Sundays to Holy Week and Easter. The crown of thorns wreath was provided by York Flowers and the Denaburg family.

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 10:30 A.M.

“Women Around the Cross” ~ we will hear the stories of the three women who stayed at the foot of the cross as Jesus was crucified. In eloquent poems from *Faces at the Cross* by J. Barrie Shepherd, we will experience the compelling witness of Mary Magdalene; Mary, the mother of Jesus; and Salome, the mother of John and James. While all the disciples except John slipped away, these brave women stood by, hour after hour watching and praying for our Savior. The presentation will be punctuated with verses of “Were You There?” sung by Gabriel Levy.

PASSION/PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 10:30 A.M.

We will start the service off with a glorious introit led by the Geneva Handbells and Geneva Sanctuary Choir as the youth process in waving palm branches and wearing 1st Century clothing. This will be followed by our youth singing, "Bless the Lord" and wonderful hymn arrangements to celebrate the arrival of Jesus.

Following the service, we will have a *Palm Sunday Festival: “A Day in Ancient Times”* organized by our Youth Director, Lisa Crecelius. The children and youth will tend shops where purchases can be made for “ancient coins” that will be given out freely. It will be an exhilarating day!

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 7:00 P.M.

On Maundy Thursday we have our Tenebrae service. For many of us, this is the most moving worship service in the Christian calendar. We will recite the story of our Savior’s last night with His disciples, celebrating the Lord’s Supper, and remembering the evening of betrayal.

Maundy Thursday will be filled with music from the choir. They will sing the beloved Stainer's "God So Loved the World" as well as an anthem titled "In the Garden He Prayed" by Lloyd Larson, which will have narration to set the scene.

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 10:30 A.M.

We celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord, with the prelude beginning at 10:20 a.m. With instruments and singing, we welcome the Risen Savior. The Handbells and Ben Shaver will accompany those glorious Easter hymns on the organ. You will want to be here a little early to hear the prelude, "Jubilance," played by our brilliant Handbell Choir that embodies the miracle of Jesus' resurrection. Later in the service, Lloyd Larson's "Alleluia, Christ Arose!" will feature two members of our youth as narrators and our Adult Sanctuary Choir. Come and celebrate His resurrection and the moments leading up to the miracle of Jesus.

He comes to us with the word “Peace! Shalom!” We come to Him in the joy that He has overcome death and we will not perish, but have everlasting life. We will experience the grace of the Lord, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit as we share the Lord’s Supper.

Following the service, we will have our annual *Easter Egg Hunt*, welcoming the children of the community to share in our joy. It is *Eggs-traordinary*, *Eggs-citing*, and *Eggs-tremely fun!*