



# From Darkness to (In)Sight

The Season of Lent  
at  
**HOPE CHURCH**  
2014



## From Darkness to (In)Sight

The theme “From Darkness to (In)Sight” is taken from the texts we will be hearing from the lectionary throughout the Season of Lent. As Jesus encounters people throughout the gospel in a variety of settings, he helps each one find their way from their spiritual darkness to deeper insight.

The Lent series this year will include several worship services and one intergenerational event all designed to help grow in insight as we reflect on God’s Word together.



## Wednesday Evening Series

### Ash Wednesday, March 5\*

**6:00 p.m. Simple Meal for all ages**

**7:00 p.m. Worship Service**

Worship in the sanctuary will include scripture, music, prayer and meditation. The imposition of ashes is an ancient symbol that calls us into this season of reflection.

### March 12\*

**6:00 p.m. Simple Meal for all ages**

**6:40 p.m. Intergenerational Program**

#### *Exploring Mandalas as a Means of Reflection*

The evening program will be led by Rachelle Oppenhuizen who will share a brief introduction to mandalas that will be easily accessible to children and adults. Mandalas provide a simple and elementary “container” within which self-exploration and discovery of inner dynamics can be easily engaged. The mandala serves as both a tool of discovery and the expression of relatively unrecognized aspects of Soul. Our explorations with various materials and forms will be designed to support the spiritual practices of self-examination which are a part of the Lenten Disciplines. The children will have time with Jocelyn VanHeest, Children’s Ministry Director, to create a mandala of their own.

### March 19 & 26\*

**7:00 p.m. Worship Service**

Worship in the commons will include several cycles of scripture, music, prayer and meditation. During the meditation time, materials will be available to create mandalas as a means of reflecting on the themes of worship.

*\*Nursery care will be provided.*



# Worship During Holy Week

## **Palm Sunday, April 13\***

**8:30 a.m. Early Worship**

**11:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Celebration**

We begin the journey through Holy Week with a Palm Sunday processional, liturgy, preaching and song.

## **Maundy Thursday, April 17\***

**6:00 p.m. Family Seder Dinner**

This traditional Jewish meal remembers the events of the Passover told in the book of Exodus. There will be a pot luck meal as part of the Seder so please bring a dish to pass. Sign up for the Seder in the Gathering Area or by calling the church office (392-7947).

**7:45 p.m. Tenebrae Service (Service of Shadows)**

The service follows the path of Jesus' passion through the Last Supper and crucifixion and includes a hand washing ritual, communion, prayer, scripture and music.

## **Good Friday, April 18**

**12:10 p.m. Community Good Friday Service**

*The Seven Last Words of Christ*

Hosted at First United Methodist Church and co-sponsored by Hope Church, Third Reformed Church and New Community Fourth Reformed Church.

## **Saturday, April 19\***

**8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil**

Come and experience the anticipation and joy of resurrection light as we approach the celebration of Easter.

## **Easter Sunday, April 20\***

**8:30 a.m. Early Worship Service**

**9:40 a.m. Easter Brunch**

**11:00 a.m. Worship Service**

Celebrate the risen Lord! Jill Russell, preaching, and Gordon Wiersma, liturgist; with choirs and brass under the direction of Brian Carder. *Church School will not be held.*



## Additional Opportunities

### **March 6-April 10: Compassionate Connection Small Group**

**Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Garden Lounge**

Compassionate Connection presents, *Immortal Diamond: The Search for our True Self*, by Richard Rohr. Facilitated by the Rev. Randy Smit, participants are invited to: be acquainted with the mystics, be re-enchanted with their own humanity, embrace paradox, explore communion practices, live authentically, live as Christ. There is a suggested donation of \$60 that will contribute to the ministries of Compassionate Connection. Participants are encouraged to sign up by emailing Randy at [ransmit@charter.net](mailto:ransmit@charter.net).

### **Sunday, March 9: Healing Prayer Service 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

The Worship, Prayer and Spirituality Ministry, in conjunction with the Health Ministry, offers Healing Prayer Services several times a year. People are invited to share in this liturgy of healing prayer and are offered the opportunity to come forward to share in prayer with one of the elders or pastors if desired. People are also invited to write down prayer concerns in the weeks leading up to the Service and those concerns will be included in the litany for healing.

### **The Cross Shop: Finding Healing at the Intersection**

During Lent you will find a "Cross Shop" sitting on a table in the sanctuary. The cross has become a symbol within our faith for the intersection between our need and God's promise of healing and salvation. The Health Ministry offers this space during Lent for people to take a cross and write a word or name that represents a place in your life or someone you know who needs healing, hope, forgiveness, guidance, or grace. As you leave that cross in the cross shop for the season, the community will be lifting those needs up in prayer knowing that when our needs intersect with God's promises we receive healing even if we cannot know or name what that healing will look like.

# Devotional Materials

## **For Adults: *Signs of Lent***

A series of weekly handouts will be available which invite you to connect with Jesus' ministry through tangible signs such as water, wind and light encountering the holy in unexpected places. Each weekly handout includes artwork to help engage the heart and open the mind as a means of reflecting on the texts that will be utilized in worship both on Sunday mornings and during the Wednesday Lent Series.

## **For Youth: *Lent 2014 Teen Calendar***

A colorful Lenten calendar provides brief, spiritual reflections for each day in Lent. Each day, with eyes focused on Christ's cross, encourages you to answer your call as God's servant.

## **For Families with Older Children:**

### ***Do Whatever He Tells You!***

This Lenten family devotional booklet uses the words of Jesus as centerpieces for daily prayer. With devotions from Ash Wednesday through Easter, this booklet will help foster daily family prayer and faith-sharing around what Jesus told us to do: "love one another", "forgive and you will be forgiven", "do not be afraid", and many more.

## **For Families with Young Children:**

### ***These Stones Will Shout!***

This daily Lenten devotional will lead children and their families down a Lenten pathway to Easter as they learn about Christ, our Cornerstone. The journey culminates with the rolling stone on Easter morning. Each devotion focuses on a rocky theme from Scripture.

