

## Devotional Materials

### For Adults: *Mercy, Passion and Joy*

Let the writings of C. S. Lewis lead you through Lent with this booklet of daily quotes from arguably the greatest Christian apologist of the 20th century, followed by reflections by C. S. Lewis scholar Dr. Joel Heck. The daily quotes, Scripture, reflections and prayers lead the reader from contemplations on the mercy of Christ and the Passion he suffered on our behalf to the astounding joy that is ours because of his great sacrifice for us.

### For Children: *Upon a Tree*

Once, upon a tree, Adam and Eve chose something that sent them far away from God. Each Lent, we remember the tree that God used to bring us all back to paradise again. Throughout Lent, children will add a sticker to their tree stand-up and read a devotion and Bible verse. The stickers help to tell the story of God's growing family and God's plan planted in the garden of Eden to save us. When Easter Sunday arrives, celebrate the happy truth that Jesus is risen!

## Compassionate Connection

Compassionate Connection presents...**Blood, Water and Fire - Art Response 3.0: Evoke, Explore, Express.**

Acts of terror. Environmental extremes. A degenerating politics. From every side, we are caught up in the woundedness of the world. And its healing. We think and talk ourselves to death, to sleep, to no avail... sometimes. It's then that we can turn to each other and ask: Is there another way... To express ourselves? To understand each other? Our world? A mysterious, engaging Spirit, present and at work?

What if the place to meet was Art? What if it was where we met each other as human beings and fellow travelers, where we met the random, frightening or unresolvable moments of our shared human story? What might we come up with? Where could it take us through Lent, Easter tide and Pentecost?

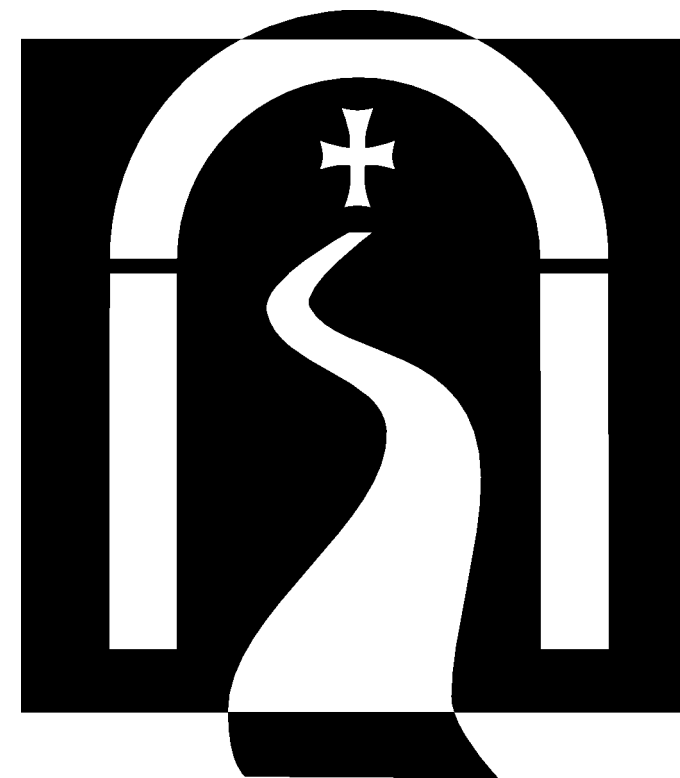
March 19 – April 23 – May 21. All are welcome. Watch for further details about this evolving spiritual practice - much to try, much to discover. A suggested donation of \$30 is appreciated to cover the cost of supplies and facilitation resource.

HOPE CHURCH  
77 WEST 11TH ST.  
HOLLAND, MI 49423



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## Lent 2016



## Wandering Home



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First Sunday in Lent: *Led to Wander*  
Second Sunday in Lent: *Wandering Without Fear*  
Third Sunday in Lent: *Feasting and Fasting*  
Fourth Sunday in Lent: *Wandering Feast*  
Fifth Sunday in Lent: *Coming Home*



Did you know that John Calvin advocated for weekly communion in the church? The Lord's Supper is rarely celebrated weekly in Reformed churches, as you may know. The Worship Ministry is planning weekly communion during the Sundays in Lent as a way to express our desire for God, our yearning for God's graces. We hope that each Sunday will renew our discipleship as the body of Christ in receiving the sacrament. There are various aspects of communion, perhaps most traditionally perceived as penitential and as meal or feast.

Just as much of our liturgy and song become a part of us, we hope that the practice of feasting on Christ's body and blood will nourish and renew us as we internalize the visible means of grace. As the Worship Ministry continues to engage the congregation, please let us know how you experienced this practice of weekly communion during Lent. Come to the Feast!

## Wednesday Worship Series

Wednesday evenings during the first five weeks of Lent you are invited to prayer in the sanctuary. We begin with a traditional Ash Wednesday service, and then continue using the theme of a traveler's needs as well as practices gleaned from Early Worship to guide us into song, prayer, and communion.

### Ash Wednesday, February 10

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

7:00 p.m. - 7:45 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.

### February 17

7:00 p.m. Worship Service

We pray as travelers seeking *shelter*

"God will hide me in his shelter..." Psalm 27

### February 24

7:00 p.m. Worship Service

We pray as travelers seeking *food and drink*

"Ho! Come to the waters! Come and eat!" Isaiah 55

### March 2

7:00 p.m. Worship Service

We pray as travelers seeking *cleansing*

"in Christ there is a new creation" 2 Corinthians 5

### March 9

7:00 p.m. Worship Service

We pray as travelers seeking *rest and strength*

"Rivers in the desert" Isaiah 43

*Nursery care will be provided for all worship services.*

## Worship During Holy Week

### Palm Sunday, March 20

8:30 a.m. Early Worship Palm Sunday Celebration

11:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Celebration

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

### Maundy Thursday, March 24

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 includes communion, prayer, scripture and music.

### Good Friday, March 25

12:10 p.m. Community Good Friday Service

Hosted at New Community Fourth Reformed Church and co-sponsored by Hope Church, First United Methodist Church, Third Reformed Church, and the Washington School Neighborhood Connector.

### Easter Sunday, March 27

8:30 a.m. Early Worship Service

9:40 a.m. Easter Brunch

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

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