

GUIDELINES FOR THE ST. JAMES UMC 2018 EASTER & PENTECOST DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

CHOOSE A THEME AND SCRIPTURE: Please prayerfully **choose a spiritual theme of Easter or Pentecost** that is important to you. **Select a passage of Scripture** that relates to that theme. Or, first choose a favorite passage of Scripture that is related to Easter or Pentecost. You may choose to write on one of the Sunday themes or Sunday readings from the Lectionary (see below), but that is not necessary.

REFLECT and WRITE: Write a personal reflection (not a sermon!) of how that theme and/or Scripture has made a difference in your faith life. Don't worry if someone else has selected the same passage. What is important is you share a Scripture passage that means something special to you. Share how God has touched or changed your life during Easter or Pentecost.

PRAYER: Write a one- or two-sentence prayer that will close your devotional.

PHOTO: We would like to **include a photo of you** in the guide. Please attach a photo when you send me your devotion or let me know if we can use the photo that I have used for past devotional guides or one that is in the St. James Directory. If you want to have your picture taken, please contact Alan Gill at 752-6154 to set up a time. Please have your photo taken by March 9.

DEADLINE: Please return your devotion to me no later than **March 11**. The devotions need to be edited, prepared for printing, printed, copied, and bound. We would like to hand out the guides on Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018, so the congregation can read and pray through Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost, beginning on Maundy Thursday, March 29.

SENDING: If at all possible please write your devotion and send it to me via email attached as an electronic file using Microsoft Word. **Please use your last name in the file name.** Please write no more than 300 words.

SPECIAL NOTE: Please let me know ASAP if you would like to write your devotion for one of the following special days: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, or Pentecost.

QUESTIONS: If you have any questions, need any help, or want to talk about this further, please call Chris Garcia at 341-5705 or email him at christian.garciapubco@gmail.com

2018 Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost Themes and Scriptural Readings

Date	Theme(s)	Readings from the Lectionary
March 29 Maundy Thursday	Last Supper Washing the disciple's feet	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Ps 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35
March 30 Good Friday	Passion and Death of Jesus	Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16- 25; John 18:1-19:42
April 1 Easter	Resurrection of our Lord	Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8
April 8 2 nd Sunday of Easter	Peace Faith Thomas	Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31
April 15 3 rd Sunday of Easter	Peace Understanding Scripture Fulfillment	Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48
April 22 4 th Sunday of Easter	The Good Shepherd Sacrificial love	Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18
April 29 5 th Sunday of Easter	True Vine Abiding in Jesus Becoming a Disciple	Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8
May 6 6 th Sunday of Easter	"Love one another" Bear fruit	Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17
May 10	Ascension of Our Lord	Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53
May 13 7 th Sunday of Easter	Jesus' prayer for his disciples	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19
May 20 Pentecost Sunday	The Advocate Coming of the Holy Spirit	Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15