

The Third Sunday of Easter
April 26, 2020

Dear Members of Harmony,

My prayers continue for you and yours while we are still held in place until this virus passes us by. My prayer is that our loving God would deliver us from this pestilence.

I am glad that we now have the ability to worship together and even begin to continue to fellowship with our confirmands. Tim Hiam has worked hard in bringing "Zoom" into our ministry. Still, I look forward to the day when we can resume our ministry together.

I regret that our Lenten series was cut so short. I'm going to try and remind us of our Lord's teaching to us during Lent. We remember this text – "Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart—" Hebrews 10:22; and we remember—

Transfiguration Sunday

Jesus is revealed with Peter, James and John in the company of Moses and Elijah. Jesus is revealed as God's Son, whom the Father loves and with Him God is well pleased. "Listen to Him!"

Ash Wednesday Text is Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; "Return to me with all your heart with fasting and weeping. So rend your heart and not your garments, return to the Lord your God for He is merciful, gracious, slow to anger, of great kindness and He relents from doing harm."

"Dust we are, to dust we shall return."

Our Lenten series began under the words, "Draw close to God with a sincere heart."

Beginning on the first Wednesday in Lent we saw the contrast between the rich young ruler, blind Bartimaeus and Zacchaeus. The ruler came to Jesus to debate and went empty away having lost the debate trickery, coming to Jesus in need with hearts reaching out to Jesus, the blindman sees and Zacchaeus was saved to Eternal Life.

Throughout the Lenten season, Nicodemus, Good Samaritan, woman at the well, the leper who returned, Mary Magdalene, Lazarus called from death to life again lived out our theme of drawing close to God with a sincere heart. In each case the message is ours as well, each had a "Hunger and Thirst for Jesus." Grace, forgiveness and healing touch and voice are received and blest by Jesus the Son of God and Savior. Each had an encounter with our Lord and each received Him as Christ.

Through Holy Week our Lord moved steadily to the cross to die for us to pay the penalty for sin and in three days to rise from death and lives today. The heart must be sincere in repentance and faith, the heart must hunger and thirst for Jesus' saving grace. New life begins as the hearts hunger and thirst for Christ. He comes to those who humbly seek Him.

Prayers are with you! Hope in Christ!

Christ Is Risen!

Blessings,

Pastor Bill