

THE MARKS OF A CHRISTIAN

A Sermon Series on Prayer, Love, Grace, Forgiveness, Serving, and Faith & Hope

Lent 2024

During Lent this year, our theme is *The Marks of a Christian*. On Ash Wednesday, February 14, we start our journey of preparing for Easter. Read more about Lent in the following commentary.

But there's more. During each of our Sunday Worship services in Lent, we will discover what characteristics mark *you* as a Christian. In other words, what outward signs do you demonstrate to others that reflect you as a Christian? We will hear more about the *Marks of a Christian* during our sermon series in Lent.

SUNDAY 10:30 AM FEBRUARY 18: LENT 1

The Marks of a Christian: PRAYER

Luke 11:1-4

Our real sense of depth and power in faith are drawn from prayer

SUNDAY 10:30 AM FEBRUARY 25: LENT 2

The Marks of a Christian: LOVE

John 15: 12-17

The sum Jesus' teachings and example is Love

SUNDAY 10:30 AM MARCH 3: LENT 3

The Marks of a Christian: GRACE

Romans 3: 21-26, Ephesians 2:1-10

Grace is an undeserved, free gift we cannot earn or buy

SUNDAY 10:30 AM MARCH 10: LENT 4

The Marks of a Christian: FORGIVENESS

Matthew 18:15-35

Jesus sets the example to forgive and be forgiven

SUNDAY 10:30 AM MARCH 17: LENT 5

The Marks of a Christian: SERVING

Luke 22: 24-27

Serving others frees us from the bonds of self-centeredness

SUNDAY 10:30 AM MARCH 24: LENT 6, PALM SUNDAY

The Marks of a Christian: FAITH & HOPE

Hebrews 11:1-6

Faith is the assurance of unseen things hoped for, promised by the Gospel

THURSDAY MARCH 28: MAUNDY THURSDAY

5:30 pm Dinner, 7:00 pm Tenebrae Service and Holy Communion

SUNDAY 10:30 AM MARCH 31: EASTER SUNDAY

Celebrating the Resurrection in Worship with special music by Diana and Josh

MT. ADAMS PILGRIM CHAPEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
REV. JOHN H. POHLMAN, PASTOR

COMMENTARY on LENT

Lent is a great time to get yourself more aligned with Jesus as your friend and Savior. Lent is a 40-day trial run in changing your lifestyle, and letting God change your heart. With adjusting your priorities for 40 days in Lent, you can build habits which will in turn become spiritual disciplines. I encourage you to observe one or more of these practices for Lent. **Note our new *Prayer Practice opportunities!***

PRAYER

Christians also use Lent as a time of intentional prayer. You can pray while you walk, create music or art, savor a time of quiet listening, or start the routine of devotions as your time with God. Daily prayer is an important spiritual discipline, and a lifeline with God, that comes and forms through repetition and habit.

PRAYER PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES

- **The Sanctuary for Lent:** Pray from this Devotional Booklet daily during Lent.
- **Prayer Partners:** Pray for your assigned partner. Send a card. Talk with them on Sundays.
- **Prayer Line:** We are marketing the church office phone on our website as a *prayer request line*.

SERVICE

Some Christians participate in the taking on of serving others. When we serve on behalf of Jesus Christ, we glorify God through our work. You can create a helping project, or volunteer your time and talent. There are as many opportunities to serve as big as your imagination. Everyone should serve *at least* 4 hours per month. The giving of yourself leads to finding your true Christ-like self.

FASTING

Some people have been known to go without food for days. But that's not the only way to fast. You can fast by cutting out some of the things in your life that distract you from God. Some Christians use the whole 40 days to fast from candy, TV, soft drinks, snacks, alcohol, tobacco, or meat as a way to purify their bodies and lives. You might skip one meal a day and use that time to pray instead. Or you can give up some activity like worry, or reality TV, to spend more time with family, or outside enjoying God's creation. What do you need to let go of, or "fast" from, in order to focus on God? What clutters your calendar and life? How can you simplify your life in terms of what you eat, wear, do, or act?

STUDY

On the First Sunday of Lent, on February 18, I will be introducing a new devotional booklet for our Pilgrim Chapel community, called *The Sanctuary for Lent*. Use this booklet daily for a 40-day spiritual journey that will enable you to discover Scripture, prayer, and a contemporary message. It will help you develop the habit of daily prayer, as a spiritual discipline.

Christians from many different traditions celebrate Lent as the ideal time to grow closer to God. It's a time to assess your standing and commitment to your faith. I hope you will commit to these practices, and display your *Marks* for others to see. If you need help or advice on any of these, give me a call or e-mail.

In His Service,

Pastor John