

Cracked Lives

March 2 – April 14, 2022

“I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you” – Luke 15:18

It has been a difficult few years full of change and loss. Sometimes, it feels like the world and our lives are cracking around us, creating vulnerable fissures in our facades of faithful competence. But as our facades crumble, might we find new strength and possibility? A new way?

March 2 – Ash Wednesday

“return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning” – Joel 2:12

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21; Isaiah 58:1-12; Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

The time feels dark. We come in fasting and mourning to hear our rebellion announced, to acknowledge the chasms between us and God. Let us pray and fast, mourn and confess so that we may be made new.

March 6 – Too Perfect

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” – Romans 10:13

Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

In an inhospitable place lacking sustenance and shelter, Jesus wanders for 40 days. Imagine how desperate he must have been at the end of that time. Into that need he is offered everything anyone could desire. But even in this literal and spiritual desert, Jesus' faith is strong, showing no cracks. A hard act to follow when we feel like we are barely holding it together.

March 13 – Standing Proud

“How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood” – Lk 13:34

Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

In our pride, we cover over the cracks in the façade of our perfection so that no one might see our weakness. We rely on the expectations of the world around us to show how well we are doing, but in doing so we separate ourselves from the true strength and foundation offered. We ignore our need and the shelter Jesus offers, setting our minds on standing on our own two feet.

March 20 – Beneath the Surface

“Why do you spend your money for that which...does not satisfy?” – Isaiah 55:2

Isaiah 55:1-9; Luke 13:1-9

God's ways are not our ways. We imagine that because we are safe we are righteous. We assume those who suffer must have deserved it. But are we bearing fruit or wasting soil? Are we chasing that which does not satisfy the deepest longings of our soul? Our appearance may seem solid, but our foundations are crumbling.

March 27 – Crumbling Walls

“I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you” – Luke 15:18

2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

We all make mistakes, big ones, small ones, in-between ones. Sometimes it feels like our mistakes or the mistakes of another create chasms separating us from God. We've gone a step too far. There is no going home. But Paul tells us everything is made new in Christ and that includes us, all of us. No one is too far gone. No one is irredeemable. If only we set our pride and fear aside, let our walls crumble, we will find our way home.

April 3 – No More Pretending

“I regard everything as loss because of...knowing Christ Jesus my Lord” – Philippians 3:8

Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

The truths we try desperately to conceal are becoming known. We have choices to make. Will we hang tightly to who we have been or give up everything in the hope of being made new?

April 10 – All is Lost

“the cock will not crow...until you have denied three times that you know me” – Luke 22:34

Luke 19:28-40; selections 22:14-23:56 (Passion Sunday)

We shout love and praise. We are filled with the joy of Christ among us. But what happens when the parade passes by? Have we been changed, transformed? Or were we just papering over our cracks, hoping no one would notice? Jesus knows the path he walks. There is no room for pretending everything is ok. All of our cracks will be displayed, our vulnerabilities made known.

April 14 – Maundy Thursday

“He said to them, ‘I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.’” – Luke 22:15-16

Jesus’ final gift to his disciples, to us, is togetherness. It is a meal and a reminder of all that we are and all that we can be. However cracked and broken we are, we are welcomed in. Let us come together to eat, to pray, and to follow Jesus until the very end.