

**Encountering Hope – A Lectionary based Sermon Series for Lent 2017**

Following just the six Sundays leading up to Easter – There is a progression of meetings and encounters that Jesus has on his way to the cross. Each encounter points toward the hope of redemption and salvation. Each encounter is more public than the previous, leading us from individual experiences to group encounters to a redemptive event for the whole world.

**Wednesday March 1, 2017 (Ash Wednesday)**

Scripture: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**Sunday March 5, 2017 (First Sunday of Lent)**

Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness

Jesus is tempted by the devil. Temptations include power, prestige, and meeting personal needs without God’s help. How do we struggle with our own temptations? Who is there to help us in our times of deepest need?

**Sunday March 12, 2017 (Second Sunday of Lent)**

John 3:1-17 Jesus’ encounter with Nicodemus at night

Jesus has a secret meeting with Nicodemus, a faithful Jewish Pharisee, at night. Nicodemus is seeking answers to who Jesus is and what his intentions are. Who do we seek out for answers? Are we bold enough to seek those answers in the light of day, or not?

**Sunday March 19, 2017 (Third Sunday of Lent)**

John 4:5-42 Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well

Jesus teaches a Samaritan woman about the Kingdom of God. She was not seeking him, but found him in a place where she expected no one would be. She’s alone, but in the light of day and responds by telling everyone what she has heard. How do we respond to Jesus’ understanding of our lives?

**Sunday March 26, 2017 (Fourth Sunday of Lent)**

John 9:1-41 Jesus heals a man born blind

Jesus meets a blind man along the road and cures his blindness with a mud patch, a public miracle investigated by the Pharisees. To what have we become blind? How will Jesus heal us of our blindness, both spiritual and cognitive?

**Sunday April 2, 2017 (Fifth Sunday of Lent)**

John 11:1-45 Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead

Lazarus was sick almost to death and Jesus did not come for two days. Lazarus was dead and buried by the time Jesus arrived. Jesus performs a very public miracle by resurrecting Lazarus from the grave. What part of you has died and needs Jesus to resurrect it?

**Sunday April 9, 2017 (Palm/Passion Sunday)**

Matthew 21:1-11 Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem

Jesus enters Jerusalem as a conquering hero. This is his most public declaration of who he is and why he is here. What do you have to say about who Jesus is and why he was here? Is he your conquering hero?

**Thursday April 13, 2017 (Holy/Maundy Thursday)**

**Friday April 14, 2017 (Good Friday)**

**Sunday April 16, 2017 (Easter Sunday)**