

Lent 2021

Deep Calls to Deep February 17-April 4



The season of Lent falls in the greyest part of the year in Northern Indiana. We are waiting for spring. The ground is lonely and exposed and Lent is the season that calls for our exposure. It is the “scrubbing away” of excess. It is the time when we are asked to look honestly and deeply at our relationships with God, with others and the earth. The call to go deep can be frightening or overwhelming, especially when we feel we are not ready and do not know what we will find; afterall, we keep much of our pain in our depths.

This year’s theme “deep calls to deep” is not only about deep pain, it is also about deep belovedness. God’s call echoes within the deep place within us, a place where the words of love, spoken to Jesus at his baptism, dwell: “you are my Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” Enter into this season hearing the voice that urges you to see yourself as God sees you. Allow yourself to be led into deeper relationship with God and others. May you live and love deeply during this 40 day season of self-examination, surrender, and preparation.

As the liturgical season moves from Ashes to Resurrection, the season outside moves from winter to spring. So during this time, you are invited to pay attention to the natural world. The themes and scriptures for each week introduce images from nature: deep in the sea, the woods, the sky, the wilderness, the earth and the current. What learnings might we experience this season if we enter deeply into the wisdom of creation? **Each week, you are invited to send in your own images or artwork on the theme for a slideshow we’ll use in worship.** Please send to annay@assemblymennonite.org by each Friday.

Another way you can enter into this season is by participating in weekly self guided “mini-retreats.” The worship space will be set up with different stations that family groups or individuals can move through on Wednesday evenings (beginning Feb. 17) from 4-6 p.m. We will change the materials at each station according to the lectionary and the theme each week. There will be a pastor there during that time to offer a ritual blessing (ashes, oil, water, etc). These rituals are for all.

We are also encouraging households to use weekly prayer guides, available each week attached to the prayer and sharing, in hard copies in the worship space starting on Ash Wednesday, or here: [Prayer Booklet](#)

- Worship will be followed by two options for Second hour: “Visio Divina,” led by Kyle Schlabach will be exploring the images from Voices Together in a contemplative way. “Podcast and Conversation” led by a rotating group of people will be discussion based. We’ll include the link to a timely podcast in the Assemblyline each Friday, please listen ahead of time and come prepared to discuss. Ideas for podcasts? Contact Anne Horst Hanby.
- Recording “Old and New” Hymns for worship is moving from Thursday evenings to **Saturday mornings at 10am**. Sign up to join [here](#). As always, we’ll be distanced and masked, and singing out of the new Voices Together hymnals.
- Our hope is that our worship for **Easter Sunday will be held in the parking lot**, but as always, we are holding these plans loosely.

Date	Text	Story/ Images to submit	Theme	Preacher
2/21	Gen 9:8-17, Mark 1:9-15 Psalm 25:1-10	God's covenant with humanity, Jesus baptism <i>Water</i>	Deep in the sea: Called to deep relationship	Michael Miller
2/28	Mark 8:31-38, Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-15	Promise to Abraham, "Get behind me satan" <i>Woods</i>	Deep in the woods Called into deep commitment	Mary Lehman Yoder
3/7	John 2:13-22, Exodus 20: 1-17, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, Psalm 19	Jesus Cleanses the temple, Ten Commandments <i>Sky</i>	Deep in the changing sky: called to deep wisdom	Anna Yoder Schlabach
3/14	Numbers 21:4-9, John 3:14-21, Ephesians 2:1-10,	Serpents and healing, darkness and light <i>Wilderness</i>	Deep in the wilderness: Called to deep healing	Bethany Swope
3/21	Jeremiah 31:31-34, John 12:20-33	Law on hearts, Unless a grain of wheat <i>Soil</i>	Deep in the earth; Called to deep growth	Lora Nafziger
3/28	Isaiah 50:4-9a, John 12:12-16	Palm Procession <i>Currents</i>	Deep in the current: Called to deep hope	Jason Kauffman
4/2	Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 22, John 18:1-19:42	Good Friday <i>Shadows</i>	Deep in the shadows: Called deep in the story	8pm on Zoom.
4/4	Isaiah 25:6-9, John 20:1-18 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Empty Tomb <i>Feast</i>	Deep in the Feast: Called to deep living	Regina Shands Stoltzfus

The dust that shapes the journey, The cross that guides it, The color that surrounds it, The light that fades through it, The wilderness that invites it-- This is Lent, and into its wilderness God calls us. Come, friends, Christ is heading for Jerusalem.
-Roddy Hamilton