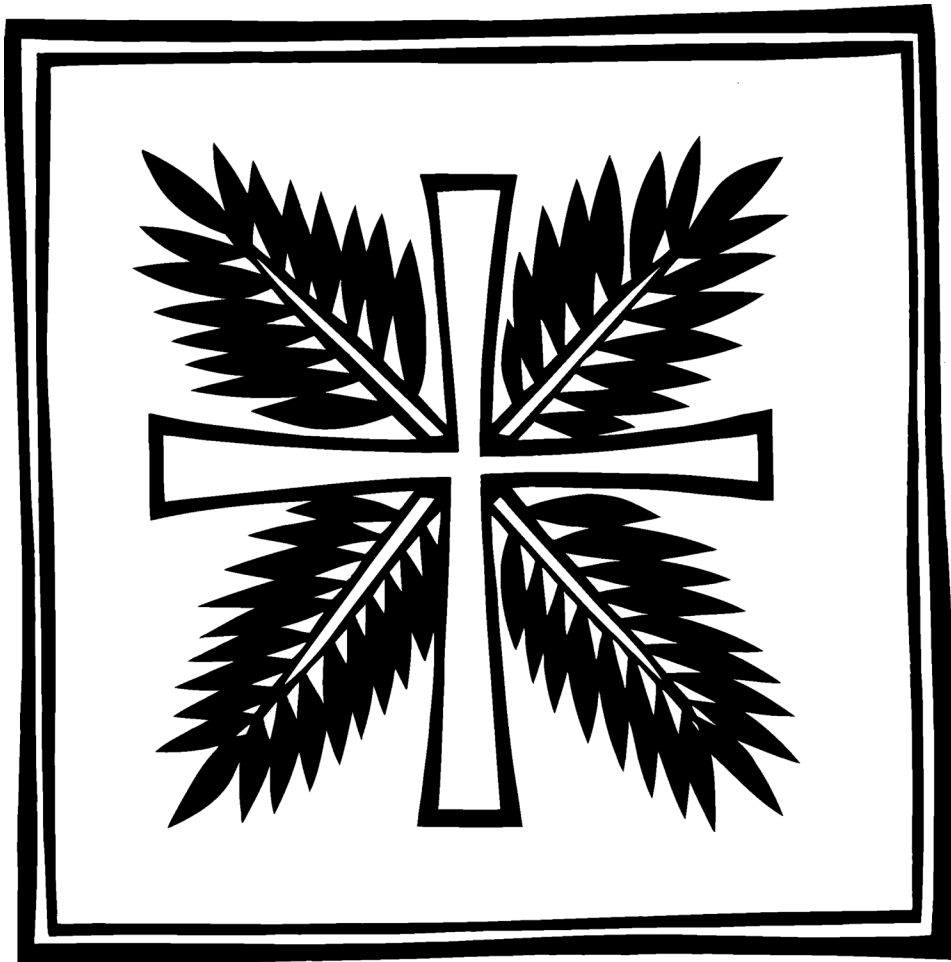


Good Soil Lutheran Ministries
Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



Palm/Passion Sunday
April 2, 2023
9:30 am



20300 Hilliard Blvd
Rocky River, OH 44116
(440) 331-1773

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Instagram: [goodsoilchurch](https://www.instagram.com/goodsoilchurch)
YouTube: [Good Soil Lutheran Ministries](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

For Parents with Children

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshipping with you. There's also a "pryground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshipping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

For Those Needing Hearing Assistance

Please ask an usher about our hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.

Key:

Bold Font – Spoken by the Congregation

Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant

† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

*Please Note: In an effort to protect those who are vulnerable, **masking is recommended**. In addition, the first four rows of pews on the left side of the sanctuary are reserved as a “masking only” section (for those who wish to be in close proximity only with others who are masking).*

Palm/Passion Sunday

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ’s broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating God’s astounding work.

Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Worship begins with the assembly (all who are able) gathered outside near Hilliard Ave, so that we can process into the sanctuary waving our palms and celebrating Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Then, we continue the journey into a worship service full of paradox. Here palms meet passion, triumph gives way to torture, and celebration turns to crucifixion.

The passion story (passion meaning suffering) draws us in as witnesses of Jesus’ last days, and reminds us of the extremes Jesus endured to express the intensity of God’s passionate love for us and the whole world.

	<p>Prelude</p> <p>† Welcome to Worship</p> <p>Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!</p>
<p><i>We join a great cloud of witnesses by this act of faith today:</i></p> <p><i>Christians have processed with palms to remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem since the 4th century!</i></p>	<p>† Blessing of the Palms</p> <p>The Lord be with you. And also with you.</p> <p>We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.</p> <p>Let us go forth in peace, in the name of Christ. Amen.</p>
	<p>† Processional Hymn: All Glory, Laud, and Honor ELW 344 v 1, 3-5</p> <p><i>Refrain</i></p> <p>All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.</p>

- 1 You are the king of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
our King and Blessed One. *Refrain*

- 3 The multitude of pilgrims
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present. *Refrain*

- 4 To you, before your passion,
they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise. *Refrain*

- 5 Their praises you accepted;
accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness,
O good and gracious King. *Refrain*

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, 760-821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

† Confession and Forgiveness with Remembrance of Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem according to Matthew 21:1-11

We remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and all the complex layers of meaning that go along with it. As we read through this part of the story, we pause to admit the places where we as God's people so often fall short and could change the narrative.

So let us listen, respond, and confess, trusting that no matter what we do or don't do, this story ends with love.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

O God, forgive us for the times when we do not trust your word and do not follow where you lead. We long to be the ones who go into the village ahead of you. Forgive us when we play it safe.

Brief silence for reflection.

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: “Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

O God, forgive us for forgetting that you are always coming toward us. You are drawing near, like a king on a donkey. Help us find you in our midst.

Brief silence for reflection.

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

O God, forgive us for the moments when we choose greed over generosity, or when we choose our self-image over our loyalty to you. Give us the courage to be unabashed in our faith. Give us the strength to throw our coats on the road.

Brief silence for reflection.

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

O God, give us the conviction to shout your name from the rooftop. Give us the wisdom to sing, “Hosanna!”

Brief silence for reflection.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?” The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

O God, with hope in our hearts we pray to you in the name of your son, Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee. Amen.

People of God,

There will be days when we withhold our praise.

There will be days when we dare not follow.

There will be days when we ignore God’s call, when we choose comfort over courage, and ourselves over others.

But even on those days,
even on our worst days,
we belong to God.

Hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

Nothing can separate us from God’s love. We are loved, forgiven,
and sent out to serve.

Thanks be to God for a love like that. Hosanna in the highest!

Contemplation of the Passion of Christ

The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we

† Prayer of the Day

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray.

<p><i>are about to hear.</i></p> <p><i>Today's Prayer of the Day functions as a hinge between the "Palm" and the "Passion" portions of the service.</i></p>	<p><i>A brief silence is kept.</i></p> <p>O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.</p>
	<p>Children's Sermon</p> <p><i>Children aged Pre-K through 3rd grade are invited to leave the service after the Children's Sermon and attend the 1st part of Sunday School instruction (2nd part to resume in classes after worship.)</i></p>
	<p>Gospel: Matthew 26:20--27:54</p> <p>To put this gospel reading into context:</p> <p><i>In fulfillment of scripture and obedience to God's will, Jesus goes to the cross so that a new covenant in his blood may bring forgiveness of sins. Even the soldiers who crucify him recognize him to be the Son of God.</i></p> <p><i>The congregation is invited to participate in the narrative by reading aloud the parts in bold. In some instances, women and higher voices are invited to speak the "women" parts, and men and lower voices are invited to speak the "men" parts.</i></p> <p><i>You are also welcome to follow along in a bible or simply listen and contemplate.</i></p>

Additionally, it is traditional custom for people of faith to stand for Jesus' crucifixion as a sign of respect and reverence. You will be invited to do so at that time (Matthew 27:32).

Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison

*Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice.
You're invited to reflect on the following question:*

*Jesus the Savior bears the pain of the world through the cross, and in so doing, saves us from all that threatens abundant life (ex: fear, hopelessness, feelings of unworthiness, appetite for revenge, etc.).
List other examples of concrete things that Jesus saves us from in this life—which ones resonate with you this Holy Week?*

**† Hymn of the Day: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
ELW 351 v 1-3**

- 1 O sacred head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred head, what glory,
what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine.
- 2 How pale thou art with anguish,
with sore abuse and scorn;
how does thy face now languish,
which once was bright as morn!
Thy grief and bitter passion
were all for sinners' gain;
mine, mine was the transgression,
but thine the deadly pain.

3 What language shall I borrow
to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow,
thy pity without end?
Oh, make me thine forever,
and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
outlive my love to thee.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite

† Apostles' Creed

Let us confess our faith:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*As the church,
we pray for
those in our
community
and around the
world. The
prayers are
also
responsive,
emphasizing
our own
participation.*

*Each petition
addresses a
different topic,
often in the
same pattern:*

*+ The Church
+ Creation
+ Nations and
leaders
+ Those in need
+ This faith
community
+ The great
cloud of
witnesses/those
now resting
with God*

† Prayers of Intercession

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.


Save your church, O God. Enable us to boldly confess that Jesus is Lord. With the humility of a servant, equip congregations, synods, and other ministry settings to proclaim your extravagant love for all. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Save your creation, O God. Every living being you have made has purpose. Give us renewed appreciation of farm animals who labor in the fields, service animals who accompany their human companions, and beloved pets who live alongside us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Save the peoples of the earth, O God. Restore dignity to those who are scorned and persecuted for their religious beliefs or political activism, and deliver them from the hand of their enemies. Bring peace to places where conflict runs deep. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Save those who cry to you in any need, O God. Watch over all who are incarcerated or awaiting trial, and stand with those who are unjustly accused. Be present with those feeling isolated, lonely, fearful, or those in need, especially Peter, Helen, Jae, Jeff, Oakley, Andrew, Martha, Willie, Char, Marlon, Rich, Dick and Joan, Marie, Anna, Patricia, Jeanette, Archer... and all those we name silently or aloud at this time. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Save us in your love, O God. Guide the work of church musicians, pastors, deacons, choirs, and worship servants. Sustain them in their leadership as they accompany congregations through this Holy Week. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

	<p>We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.</p>
<p><i>A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ's peace in one another and share it together.</i></p>	<p>† Passing of the Peace</p> <p>The Peace of Christ be with you always And also with you.</p> <p><i>The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.</i></p>
<p><i>God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Meal</u> <i>God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.</i></p> <p>Offering</p> <p>God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today at www.goodsoillutheran.org/support or by using this QR code:</p> <p><i>Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don't take a picture. A link will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil's support page.</i></p> 
	<p>Special Music Choir Anthem Offertory, "In Christ Alone"</p>

The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.

† Offering Hymn: **Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross** ELW 335

Jesus, keep me near the cross,
there's a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream
flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross
be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find
rest beyond the river.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

† Offering Prayer

God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
Amen.

† Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

† Preface

† Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

† Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.

† Lord's Prayer

Praying together as Jesus first taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we

forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

† Invitation to the Table

We are all seeking something...

...Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness. Amen.

† Communion

Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil. When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God."

Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding up front. You are invited to stand or kneel at the altar rail.

Gluten-free bread is available upon request. The wine is red; grape juice is white. Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.

Communion Hymn: Just As I Am, without One Plea ELW 592

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

- 3 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come,
- 4 Just as I am; thy love unknown
has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871

† Post-Communion Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

*With the
blessing of
God, we go
out to live as
Christ's body in
the world.*

† Blessing

God, the giver of love,
† Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.
Amen.

*Through the
sending hymn
we are sent out
into the world
to follow Jesus.*

† Sending Hymn: I Have Decided to Follow Jesus, v. 1, 2, 4

- 1 I have decided to follow Jesus
I have decided to follow Jesus
I have decided to follow Jesus
No turning back
No turning back
- 2 The world behind me
The cross before me
The world behind me

	<p>The cross before me The world behind me The cross before me No turning back No turning back</p> <p>4 Though I may wonder, I still will follow Though I may wonder, I still will follow Though I may wonder, I still will follow No turning back No turning back</p> <p>Text: Anonymous Tune: Indian folk tune (Assam, India)</p>
<p><i>The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body—fed, nourished, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, and our service begins!</i></p>	<p>† Dismissal</p> <p>Go in peace. Serve in love. Thanks be to God.</p>
	<p>Postlude</p>

You are warmly invited to gather in the upstairs lounge area for coffee hour immediately following worship.

Coffee hour discussion question:

Share about a meaningful spiritual experience you've had in the past during Holy Week (Palm/Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter).

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Confession and Forgiveness and Eucharistic Prayer adapted from “Seeking: Words for Worship” by Rev. Sarah A. Speed, A Sanctified Art, LLC sanctifiedart.org

Today’s Worship Servants:

Presiding: The Rev. Marissa Harrison	Livestream: Jessica Berkshire
Ushers: Joan Zeager Stan Zeager	Counters: Jessica Berkshire Becky Williamson
Online Usher: Kathy Berkshire	Acolyte: TJ Lanter
Readers: Paula Maeder Connor Dave Connor Barbara Munch Trey Harrison	Sunday School Teachers: Louise Debell (Early Learners) Pam Lanter (Primary) JoAnne Wancata (Middle Schoolers)

Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Sun, Apr 2	• In-Person and Livestream Worship – Palm/Passion Sunday	9:30 am
	• Sunday School	10:30 am
	• Coffee Hour	10:30 am
Thurs, Apr 6	In-Person and Livestream Worship - Maundy Thursday	7:00 pm
Fri, Apr 7	Good Friday Service at Lakewood United Methodist	7:00 pm
Sat, Apr 8	ELCA Anti-Racist Zoom Meeting	10:30 am
Sun, Apr 9	• In-Person and Livestream Worship – EASTER SUNDAY	9:30 am
	• Easter Egg Hunt	10:30 am
	• Coffee Hour	10:30 am
Mon, Apr 10	Easter Monday – OFFICE CLOSED	



Announcements from Good Soil Sunday, April 2, 2023

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Peter Alexander, Helen Andrews, Jae, Jeff, Oakley, Andrew Evatt, Martha Lanter, Willie Lee, Char Mattson, Marlon Naylor, Rich Petrusky, Dick and Joan Schlupe, Marie Sternad, Anna Sykaluk, Patricia Wancata, Jeanette Weidlich, Archer Oster.

For those celebrating their birthday:

Pastor Marissa Harrison (Apr 3), Pam Lanter (Apr 4), Trey Harrison (Apr 8)

For those celebrating their baptisms:

Becky Williamson (Apr 4)

Tune up your vocal pipes! If you are interested in singing the choir anthem for Easter Sunday service, please contact Julia Alexander at Julia.alexander@oberlin.edu and stay after worship today for practice. Thank you for making a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Attention Easter Bunny Helpers (or wannabes!) You can join the fun of filling and/or hiding eggs for Good Soil's Egg Hunt! Sign up sheets are on the board outside the lounge. Packages of small candies to fill the plastic eggs can be donated in the box in the lounge through Palm Sunday. (Overflow candy will be donated to Trials for Hope)

Seeds is a weekly e-newsletter with updates and highlights about God's action among us! Use this QR code to sign up. You can also call the church office at 440-331-1773 for help signing up. It's a great way to stay in touch with all the exciting happenings at Good Soil!



Welcome to Holy Week 2023

Holy Week is the center of the church year where we relive the central story of our Christian faith: the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. By participating in the ancient practices and rituals of Holy Week, we are spiritually strengthened and connected to Christians throughout the generations and around the world who are doing the same:

Palm/Passion Sunday (April 2, 9:30am at Good Soil) We remember Jesus' descent into Jerusalem and rejoice with the crowds waving palms and shouting "Hosanna!" Then there is a deliberate shift as we hear the passion narrative—the story of Jesus' crucifixion—from Luke. This pivot is a reminder of how quickly the crowds change from shouting "Hosanna" to shouting "crucify him."

Maundy Thursday (April 6, 7pm at Good Soil) "Maundy" comes from the latin word for commandment as we remember Jesus' command to love one another. This service marks the official end of Lent as we receive forgiveness and remember the institution of the Lord's Supper. A particularly moving part of Maundy Thursday comes when we experience the stripping of the altar and depart in silence. Maundy Thursday is also the beginning of one continuous worship service called the "Triduum" or the great Three Days which spans Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and concludes with Easter.

Good Friday (April 7, 7pm at Lakewood United Methodist Church) Marks the day when Jesus gave his life for the sake of the world. We hear again the story of Jesus' crucifixion and his love poured out for the world. This will be an ecumenical community Good Friday service as we worship with our siblings in Christ from the Lakewood Ministerial Association.

Easter Sunday (April 9, 9:30am at Good Soil) This is the day of resurrection—a joyous celebration of God's victory over sin and death and the most important festival day in the entire church year. Jesus is alive and we, too, are given new life through him. Get ready to break out the Alleluias and celebrate! An Easter Egg hunt for children will be offered immediately after worship.