

Holy Week Meditations

A joint ministry of the First Presbyterian Church & First United Methodist Church in Ellsworth Kansas

“Seven Last Words of Jesus”

Youtube morning and evening devotional presentations
With Rev. Landon Whitsitt

Considering the “Seven Last Words of Jesus” is a historical tradition inviting Christians to contemplate Jesus’ final hours. Through focusing on what Jesus said as he was dying we might come to more fully know his heart, and what God With Us believed to be important as he concluded his mortal journey. Videos 1-4 are available to view now with the remaining videos available soon. You are invited to meditate on their message in the following order:

Monday AM

FORGIVENESS

Luke 23:34: Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.

Video 1: <https://youtu.be/mEwW9jXyghg>

Monday PM

SALVATION

Luke 23:43: Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.

Video 2: <https://youtu.be/-axRY2SecY>

Tuesday AM

RELATIONSHIP

John 19:26–27: Woman, behold your son. Son, behold your mother.

Video 3: <https://youtu.be/HkLnhXehx1A>

Tuesday PM

ABANDONMENT

Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34: My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?

Video 4: <https://youtu.be/g-WcNA-AVzI>

Wednesday AM

DISTRESS

John 19:28: I thirst.

Video 5: https://youtu.be/PoZBaxE5q_g

Wednesday PM (Youth Focus)

TRIUMPH

John 19:30: It is finished.

Video 6: <https://youtu.be/OHzfGzyOA5Q>

Maundy Thursday AM

TRIUMPH

John 19:30: It is finished.

Video 7: <https://youtu.be/ftU6KKDG0c0>



Maundy Thursday PM

REUNION

Luke 23:46: Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit.

Video 8: <https://youtu.be/DZfyZNPORBc>

Rev. Landon Whitsitt lives and works in Kansas City as the Executive of the Synod of Mid-America (Presbyterian Church, USA). He previously worked as a congregational pastor in the Kansas City area, as Program Director of the Center for Interfaith Relations (Louisville, KY), and served the 219th General Assembly as it’s Vice-Moderator.

Landon’s work at the Synod allows him to pursue his passion for Christian Education by producing video resources at Theocademy.com, and he has had the good fortune to publish a book titled *Open Source Church: Making Room for the Wisdom of All* (Alban, 2011). He and his wife Jerilyn have four boys (Yes. You read that right.).

Also: Our ***These Days*** devotional is free for the month of April

https://www.pcusastore.com/Content/Site119/Basics/14604TheseDaysA_00000139467.pdf

Some fun family activities can be found on these pages:



<https://network.crcna.org/faith-nurture/gods-big-easter-story-holy-week-journey-families>



<https://illustratedministry.com/flattenthecurve>

Prayer of Easter Morning

Holy Lord –

This is not what we thought Easter would be.
Victory looks like crowds at a parade,
brunch and feasting,
egg hunts and celebrations,
lilies and family and extended family and friends and family,
and loud songs of exuberant praise.

Instead, we find ourselves huddled in locked rooms with your disciples.
We carefully make our way down dim and silent streets with the faithful women attending your tomb.
We stand, each of us alone, in the garden with Mary wondering where everybody is, where you are, and
what on God's good earth we are supposed to do.

Call us by name.
Let us hear your voice ringing in our ears and feel your love overflowing in our hearts.
Unite us with the faithful of that first Easter, girded by knowledge and fully understanding that today
was not and never was to be about a single day.
Easter is a turning point in history. The first step in being your hands and feet in this world, claiming
victory over all the earthly things that
confound us,
cause fear, and
send us into hiding.

Make us bold to proclaim with the first apostle, "I have seen the Lord!"
And as the shadows of this day, and this earthly season pass,
grant us your guiding light
to be the Easter people we claim to be
not just Easter Sunday
but every day.

Amen.

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