

5 March 2021

Dear Church family and friends,

The Passover was a weeklong celebration when every Jewish male was expected to make his way to Jerusalem during this time. Recounting God's miraculous delivery of God's people from bondage was the theme of worship. We have reason to worship the God of our deliverance from the enslaving power of sin. I love the Westminster Shorter Catechism's way of articulating our purpose and how as God's people, we are to spend our time in daily living. So, "What is the chief end of man *and all of humanity*? A. The chief end of man and all of humanity is to glorify God, and to enjoy God forever."

The theme of this Sunday's message addresses the spiritual discipline of worship. I love the way Richard Foster puts it. I believe it reminds us of how we are to be living into these days preceding the Easter celebration remembering "from dust we have come and to dust we will return." To do so is to experience the life-changing presence of the divine other. Foster says, "To worship is to experience reality, to touch life. It is to know, to feel, to experience the resurrected Christ in the midst of the gathered community. It is a breaking into the Shekinah of God, or better yet, being invaded by the Shekinah of God." Worship. The radiance of God's glory dwelling in the hearts and in the midst of God's people.

I hope you plan to join us this Sunday in person or online. We will gather as God's people, share the sacrament of communion, and all while basking in the light of God's glory dwelling in the midst of community.

Stay safe and be mindful of God's ever-presence.



Pastor Sam