

Kenton Crossing

A PUBLICATION OF KENTON CHURCH (EPC)

THE MESSENGER — SPECIAL SPRING EDITION

Christ: *Philippians 2:4-11*

At Fuller Seminary we were blessed to have two gifted professors who would discuss this passage at length. Dr. Ladd and Dr. Martin would discuss, of what Jesus emptied himself as 6-7 declare, *“who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant being born in the likeness of men.*

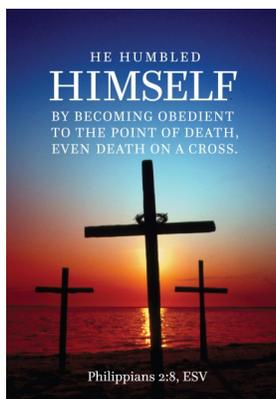
Many of you know I am not good at math. Yet, if I'm not mistaken, Jesus empties himself by **taking on** the form of a servant. How does one subtract by adding too?

Jesus gave up His expression of deity, but not His possession of deity. He remains equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit but is clothed in flesh not glory.

We are not able to see God and live yet, in Christ, we have seen the Father, as Jesus told Thomas. We do not have to wonder what God is like for Jesus *“is the visible likeness of the invisible God* (Col 1:15).

It was in this form that Jesus (v 8), *“humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”* Yet God's promise, fulfilled in Jesus resurrection and ascension is that He will be recognized by all people as the Messiah, Alpha and Omega, as we bow before Him.

Amen and amen.



FIRST SUNDAY

INSIDE this issue

- **Christ** A quick look at Philippians 2
- **First Sunday in Lent** the reality of temptation for the followers of Christ
- **Temptation of Christ**
- **Lenten Readings** for Monday March 11 through March 22 *remember no readings on Sundays*

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FROM THE PASTOR:

First Sunday in Lent

Temptation is not the end...

Ever wonder why it rained for 40 days and nights? Why Israel was forced into the wilderness for 40 years? Or why Jesus' temptation lasted 40 days?

It is suggested, wisely so, that it infers a significant length of time. Let me suppose for a moment that it has to do with *new life*.

Human gestation takes 40 weeks. It ends up in a new human. The 40 day flood birthed a new world wiped free of sin (for a time). The Jews wandered 40 years so that a *new nation* could leave the longings to return to slavery and live in the land which God promised them.

The temptation of Jesus takes place as the Holy Spirit leads him into the wilderness. Mark 1:12 says, "*the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.*" Did God know Satan would bait Jesus?

Of course he knew, God is omniscient. But God also knew that Jesus,

would have to face what we face if he were to free us. Hebrews 4: 14-15 tells us, "¹⁴ *Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.*" ¹⁵ *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize*

with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin."

His temptations did not end in the wilderness. Even on the cross there were those who taunted Jesus saying, "*if you are*

the King of the Jews save yourself" Luke 23:36-37.

Had he come down we would not be forgiven. His temptation was the beginning of His suffering for us, in our place. When we are tempted it is not to destroy us or show us how weak we are but to allow us to stand with Jesus, faithful to God's call on our lives

Pastor Alan



• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

Here are a number of resources you might find useful during Lent

Pittsburg Theological Seminary offers a devotional for Lent 2019.

<http://tinyurl.com/y6z9ksb5>

The source for the daily readings for Kenton can be found at.

<http://www.cVOICE.org/lent1.html>

Biblegateway.com has *one* reading for each day.

<http://tinyurl.com/y6ompwyj>

All Christians celebrate Lent — *Actually a large percentage do not. Including most Baptists, Pentecostals, and Evangelical*

Let dates from medieval times— *Actually the first rules for Lent are found near 325 AD.*

Lent is all about Jesus Death—*It is a time of preparation for one's baptism and joining The Church. Lent is for reflecting on the "life" of Christ.*

Mythnomers*

about Lent

Lent is 40 days long—*Lent is actually 46 days when you count the Sundays. But, the Sundays are feast days and not counted.*

Lent ends of Easter—*No, Lent ends on Maundy Thursday . The next three days of Holy week are days of fasting and prayer.*

*Apologies and hat-tip to Robert Asprin

EASTER CLEAN UP

Saturday April 13,
8:30 AM till about 2 PM

When a guest walks into Kenton what do you hope they notice? We pray they will encounter open, kind people, and God honoring worship. But, what if, instead, they notice upswept floors, cobwebs and dinginess. **Saturday, April 13 join me as we clean Kenton Church and get it ready for Easter.**

Pastor Alan



**CHURCH
WORKDAY**



Psalm 22:27

All the ends of the
EARTH
shall remember and turn to
THE LORD . . .

In our western world we tend to see things in a linear fashion. C follows B, which follows A etc.

We attach dates and places to the various events. Some, we lived through, Others we only heard about. In journalistic style we see things in terms of *who*, *what*, *where*, and *when*. Only once in a while do we ask *why*.

In truth, the *why* is the question of enduring importance, especially when we are asking faith questions.

In Eastern Religions, of which Judaism and Christianity are two, remembering is much more important. They remember because the event of the past is part on an *ongoing* story. It hasn't ended. Generation after generation still participate in the past events.

They become, in the case of Israel, "*no people*" who become "*the people of God*". Remembering, recalling, reliving,

Remember!!!

or retelling are markers on our journey of faith.

Consider Lent as we move toward Easter. Often, us Protestants rush headlong into Easter. We can't wait to sing praise, and yell "*He is Risen Indeed!!!*"

In our rush, we can and do miss the significance of the Cross. It is seen as a prolog to the empty tomb. Do this and we risk missing the tremendous meaning which Christ ascribed to it.

Jesus teaches the cross was more than suffering and death. The cross is about faithfulness and servanthood. It is the physical reality of the power of God's love and His commitment to us! It is the promise that the grace, mercy, and love of God knows no limits. No boundary can hold back God's mercy and grace.

Jesus said, "*If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.*" This is not suffering some setback in life. It is the call of Jesus to give up our life for His sake.

Guest Preacher

Reverend Stasia Van Buskirk

In March, Alan and family will be taking some vacation. While absent, Rev. Van Buskirk will fill Kenton's pulpit.

She has preached before at Kenton on multiple occasions. In fact, she is the first person I usually ask to fill in for me.

She will present God's word on March 24 and 31. Even being gone, I plan to have newsletters up for those weeks for you to download and help us keep focused on Christ.

I ask that if you are in town, that you will make every attempt to attend worship these Sundays. Not just as a support for Stasia but also as a sign of your commitment to Christ and His Body.

Peace

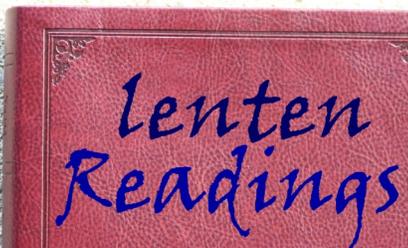
Alan



**Guest
Preacher**

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Each week of Lent there will be readings in the Psalms, Old Testament, Letters, and the Gospels. These are for Monday—Saturday

There is no reading on Sundays since they are not part of Lent.

DATE	PSALM	OT	EPISTLE	GOSPEL
March 11	AM: 41, 52 PM: 44	Deut 8:11-18	Heb 2:11-18	John 2:1-12
March 12	AM: 45 PM: 47, 48	Deut 9:4-12	Heb 3:1-11	John 2:13-22
March 13	AM: 119:49-72 PM: 49, 53	Deut 9:13-21	Heb 3:12-19	John 2:23-3:15
March 14	AM: 50, 59, 60 PM: 19, 46	Deut 9:23-10:5	Heb 4:1-10	John 3:16-21
March 15	AM: 41, 52 PM: 44	Deut 8:11-18	Heb 2:11-18	John 2:1-12
March 16	AM: 45 PM: 47, 48	Deut 9:4-12	Heb 3:1-11	John 2:13-22
March 17				
March 18	AM 56-58 PM 64, 65	Jer. 1:11-19	Rom. 1:1-15	John 4:57-42
March 19	AM 61, 62 PM 668	Jer. 2:1-13	Rom. 1:16-25	John 4:43-54
March 20	AM 72 PM 119:73-96	Jer. 3:6-18	Rom. 1:28-2:11	John 5:1-18
March 21	AM 70, 71 PM 74	Jer. 4:9-28	Rom. 2:12-24	John 5:19-2-
March 22	AM 69 PM 73	Jer. 5:1-9	Rom. 2: 25-3:18	John 5:30-47

You shall worship the Lord
 your God, and Him only
 shall you serve.

LUKE 4:8 ESV

