

GOD'S PEOPLE AT DENVER NEAR THE COLUMBIA RIVER
An urban Church with an eternal message

March 24
Third Sunday in Lent

Kenton Crossing

A PUBLICATION OF KENTON CHURCH (EPC)

Kenton Crossing — SPECIAL LENT EDITIONS

Our Charge: 1 Corinthians 10:1-17

A preacher in Wyoming, made this observation on St. Patrick's Day and not knowing what we believe.

Steven wrote, "Last week the church bulletin created a stir when it announced that for St. Patrick's Day green is the color of the day for the Roman Catholics but orange is the color of the day for Protestants.

Many long time members were unaware of this.

Likewise many Christians love to hold on to the loving and merciful aspects of God, but they conveniently overlook the portions of Scripture that declare that God is a god of justice."

He goes on to talk about disruptive issues facing his denomination, our former one.

He then says, "I am not sure if this ignorance is due to not knowing what the Scripture teaches or if it is willful defiance of God's word where people decide not to tolerate "sound doctrine but listen

to those who preach what their ears want to hear" (2 Tim. 4:3).

I commented to him that Genesis 3:4-5 is alive and well in the 21st century. "But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

So, with the reality of temptation still very real and the truth that we *too often* do not seek God's Word first. What are we to do.

First, be honest with ourselves and admit our sins. I believe the church today seems to focus on sexual sins because it's the easiest to point at and judge. Equally horrible is *pride, greed, disrespect, not loving our neighbors and enemies*. Like any 12-Step Program will tell you, the first step is to admit you have a problem.

Second, rely on Christ. No, you'll never be perfect. You will always sin. But, we have a God whose Son died to take away the sins of the world. Amen.



THIRD SUNDAY

INSIDE this issue

- **Our Charge;** Avoiding idolatry in the 21st Century
- **Jesus and Jerusalem's** a very complicated relationship
- **Covenant** what is behind the strangeness of Genesis 15?
- **Changing Plans** Stasia will be with us only March 24

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FROM THE PASTOR:

Third Sunday in Lent

Turn back O, man, forswear your evil way...

In Godspell there the "Mary Magdalene like" character sings "Turn Back O Man". click to see it.

Although sung in a vampish manner, it is, in truth, a hymn, written in 1916 in response to the Great War. It was even in an old United Presbyterian hymnal.

Although the style is different the words still ring true. It presents a noble goal in it's last verse, "Earth shall be fair and all her people one. Not till that hour shall God's own will be done".



Many church people, at the turn of the 20th century, believed human work would bring in the Kingdom of God. With the right moral, leadership, education, etc... people could become *one*. It seems silly to me looking back over the history of humans.

A 2003 New York Times article in talking about warfare defined it as "an active conflict that has claimed more than 1,000 lives." Looking back to 1300 BC humans have been at peace only 268 years "8 percent of recorded history".

Lent is about repenting, turning around, admitting we don't have the power, or the wisdom to bring lasting peace. That was Jesus' job.

James asks "Why do you fight and argue with each other?" His answer is that we are "full of selfish desires that fight to

control your body? You want something you don't have, and you will do anything to get it. You will even kill!" 4:1-2.

Repenting means giving up *our* rights to something. Just like, Jesus gave up his glory in heaven to die for us. Amen.

Pastor Alan



Each week of Lent we will add something new to our cross...



This morning you will a ringlet of thorns. The crown placed on Jesus' head by the Roman Soldiers. Little did they know that the to whom the bowed before in ridicule is truly the King of the Jews and the Lord or Lord.

Mark 15:16-19,

¹⁶ And the soldiers ...and they called together the whole battalion. ¹⁷ And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. ¹⁸ And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹ And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him.

May we worship He whom we know as our Savior and Lord.



**CHURCH
WORKDAY**

EASTER CLEAN UP

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

What needs to be taken care for our *Easter Clean Up*?

- Sweep cobwebs from the corners and ceilings
- Dusting woodwork pews, doors, and landings
- Vacuum and mop the elevator and landings
- Checking and changing light bulbs
- Vacuuming and cleaning the church entries
- Washing the window on Chatham Street doors
- **Really need the entry steps pressure washed**

Saturday, April 13 join me as we clean Kenton Church and get it ready for Easter.

Pastor Alan

Go where?: Commissioned

death ANGELS
LIFE depth
FUTURE present HEIGHT
demons

He went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

Mark 5:20

In Mark 5 Jesus crosses over into what we call the Golan Heights and encounters a man who is possessed by a demon.

We have no idea if he is Jewish or Gentile. We do not know his back story. We only know that he is inhumanly strong, self destructive and lives in the graveyard.

As you might expect, Jesus casts out the demons and sends them into a herd of pigs. The pigs then run into the Sea of Galilee and are lost.

When the crowd arrives they see that the *“old crazy guy”* was suddenly okay. Their reaction to this purely human. *“They were afraid”* (v 15).

Seemingly, no one thanks Jesus or praises God for this. Instead, the people urge Jesus to go away. He'd already caused enough problems as it were.

Now, as Jesus leaves the former possessed man begs to go with Jesus.

But Jesus sends him back to his own sphere of influence. And he did it.

He was going to be known as the crazy and/or demonic guy no matter what happened to him. People would hear his story and expect him to be the same but he wasn't.

That is what happens when you are touched by Jesus. The world around you denies the change. They look at you and say you're the same old man or woman.

Yet in truth, we have been recreated by Jesus' sacrifice. This man goes back to the cities in which he was known. He goes back to his friends.

His one message? *“Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.”*

And that's our commission too.

Guest Preacher

Today: Reverend Stasia Van Buskirk

Next Week: Reverend Richard Spencer (HR)

Today Kenton welcomes Rev. Van Buskirk to our pulpit. She has told me repeatedly how much she loves the people of Kenton.

Stasia is the first person I usually ask to fill in for me. She **was** going to fill both Sundays I was gone. But family situations make it impossible. As of this time I'm still looking for

Praise the Lord for Stasia because of her contacts next Sunday Kenton will be blessed to

have Reverend Richard Spencer (HR) filling our pulpit. His ministry includes several congregations in the Los Angeles area. He retired from Saratoga Presbyterian Church in 2007.

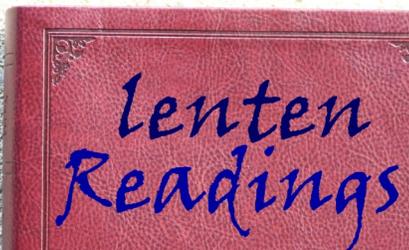
Alan



**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 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
March 23	AM 75, 76 PM 23,27	Jer. 5:20-31	Rom 3:19-31	John 7:1-13
Sunday March 24				
March 25	AM 80 PM 77,79	Jer. 7:1-15	Rom 4:1-12	John 7"14-36
March 26	AM 78:1-39 PM 78:40-72	Jer. 7:21-34	Rom 4:13-25	John 7:37-52
March 27	AM 119:97-120 PM 81,82	Jer. 8:18-9:6	Rom 5:1-11	John 8:12-20
March 28	AM 42, 43 PM 85, 86	Jer. 11:1-8, 14-20	Rom 6:1-11	John 8:33-47
March 29	AM 88 PM 91, 92	Jer. 11:1-8, 14-20	Rom 6:1-11	John 8:33-47

