



### **The Season of Lent**

The season of Lent is a period of 40 days (not counting Sundays) in which we resolve, again, to participate in Jesus' passion. In doing so, we journey on a divine path that chooses suffering over violence, sacrifice over safety, and generous love over self-love. As we walk this path we bear witness to many unexpected surprises. Chief among them all is this ancient Christian truth: difficulty and sorrow are not ways unto death, but rather, they are ways through death and into new life. A barren altar and simple wooden communion vessels symbolize this lenten journey into which Christ invites us.

### **Cross Carrying**

Five times, Jesus is quoted as telling his followers to take up their cross. But what exactly does that mean? Is cross carrying a metaphor for suffering? If so, how does one carry suffering? Is cross carrying a path that leads to crucifixion? If so, what does that look like today, when people aren't being crucified? Throughout Lent we are encouraged to participate in Jesus' passion, which includes suffering, cross carrying, and death on a cross, but what does it mean for us to carry a cross, today? What does it look like for us to be the kind of Jesus followers who do what Jesus exhorts, which is to pick up their cross and follow him?

This sermon series seeks to explore the meaning of cross carrying. Then, in the midst of this exploration, it intends to offer practical ways of carrying crosses that align our lives with Jesus' way of being in the world. Finally, this series hopes to cast a vision for cross carrying that extends beyond just suffering and death, to the glory and new life that Jesus says is the result of following him.

### **Sermon Outline**

February 14th, Ash Wednesday  
*The Imposition of Ashes*

February 18th, First Sunday in Lent  
*An Introduction to Crosses, Luke 14:25-35*

February 25th, Second Sunday in Lent  
*Carrying Differentiation, Luke 14:26*

March 4th, Third Sunday in Lent  
*Carrying Cost, Luke 14:28-30*

March 11th, Fourth Sunday in Lent  
*Carrying Peace, Luke 14:31-32*

March 18th, Fifth Sunday in Lent  
*Carrying Goodness, Luke 14:33-35*

March 25th, Palm Sunday  
*The Paradigmatic Cross, Luke 23:26-56*

March 30th, Good Friday  
*Death – The Gateway to Life*