

**“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Matthew 25:40**

Jesus died on the cross as a sacrifice for our lives. We are to live our Resurrection Faith and serve others as his hands and feet in all we say and do.

*Are we willing to make sacrifices so that we can show our love for Jesus and others we are called to serve? Let's pray that we are willing as individuals and as a church community.*

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

with Pastor Judith Rainforth



Visit our website at  
[www.alcsuncity.org](http://www.alcsuncity.org)

## WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday 4:00 pm

Sunday 8:30 am

Sunday 10:30 am

## GROUP STUDIES

### Pastor's Bible Study

Tuesdays 10 am

**Beginning 4.13.21:**

**In Person in Fellowship Hall**

and/or Conference Call

339.209.5700

### Men's Bible Study

Thursdays 8:00 am

**In-Person in Education A/B**

and/or Conference Call

339.209.5700

### Women's Book Study

Fridays 9:00 am

Fellowship Hall

# MIDWEEK MESSAGES

April 7, 2021

Greetings,

The liturgical seasons of our church and our geographical seasons seem to come around faster as the years fly by. Now is the time to make the most of every day we are given on this earth. We have so many examples of how to be the Hands and Feet of Jesus. It is my prayer that we joyfully serve in whatever way God calls us to serve while we can. May we find purpose each day as we awaken to God's creation for each of us.

With the changing of the seasons, our Friday hiking group will pause -- as April has already heated up! We will revisit the possibilities for hiking in the Fall when the weather is inviting....

On another note, I am starting to plan for a 2022 Camino Santiago Pilgrimage along the coast of Portugal to the famous St James Cathedral in Spain. It will be much shorter than my forty day, 450-mile pilgrimage in 2019, but is certainly an opportunity for spiritual growth just as mine was in so many ways. Let me know if you are even remotely interested so I can add your name to the list. It will be facilitated by a tour group and myself which will include men and women from ALC and others who are so inclined. Pray about it and know that anything is possible with God.

I am pleased to share that I have recently completed my leadership training with Stephen Ministries. It was not until I enrolled in these Zoom classes that I realized how difficult it is to sit in front of the computer learning for hours. My heart goes out to students far and wide who have been challenged by this in our schools. May they appreciate their classrooms more than ever as they return to them. I also never realized that ALC has the largest number of Stephen Ministers anywhere in the nation. What an amazing fact! I am not surprised as we have so many faithful people serving in this way.

We are enjoying the Easter Season and all it that means for us in today's world. This past year has given us the opportunity to appreciate the freedoms we have with good health. May we continue to protect our loved ones and ourselves as we gather more often and in growing numbers.

My gratitude list continues to grow as I realize the many blessings that have come out of our struggles. May we continue to grow spiritually as we face the joys and sorrows of our lives.

May we not try to deaden the pain to the point of not enjoying life on life's terms. We are not born into a perfect world, but God enables us to meet the challenges. We never have to do anything alone. God is always with us and provides angels all along our pilgrimage to encourage the journey. May we continue living our Resurrection Faith one day at a time!

**Prayerfully,** *Pastor Judith, Pastor of Spirituality and Care*

## HOPE LIGHTS THE WAY



What a wonderful Holy Week and Easter Celebration! It was so good to see people back in church and yes, visiting with masks and physical distancing (as much as one can when we are so excited!). What a wonderful Easter Message. Just as the disciples were charged to continue to carry out His message and His works after Jesus' death and Resurrection, so we were charged to continue to do this. After this year of the pandemic (and it is slowly coming to an end) let us be reminded to continue to carry on the words and deeds that Jesus has challenged us to do. This is a time to be renewed, reinvigorated and re-inspired.

Let us take up our ALC Mission and continue "to Proclaim the love of Jesus Christ, Invite others to participate in our faith community, and be a Blessing to all in word and deed".

***Every day, let us Celebrate Resurrection Sunday and be reminded that Hope Lights the Way. HE IS RISEN...HE IS RISEN INDEED...ALLELUIA!***

*Terri Polk; ALC Member*

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### **DONATIONS NEEDED at WEST VALLEY COMMUNITY PANTRY at ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

We would like to request donations for the Food Bank at St. John's. ALC has supported this food bank for many years. We realize it has been a difficult year, but there are still lots of people who need food. If possible, could you bring at least one item to donate. Please leave your donations in Fellowship Hall and we will get them to the Food Bank as we have been doing for quite some time.

**NEEDED: CANNED VEGETABLES, SOUP, FRUIT, TUNA, TOMATO SAUCE, MAC & CHEESE, CEREAL, PEANUT BUTTER, PASTA**

**YOUR DONATIONS WILL BE APPRECIATED.**

***Larry & Judy Stage***