

# The Divine Comedy:

## *Notes from Pastor Darryl*

February 2018

### **YAY! LENT IS HERE!**

I am so excited for Lent. Is that a thing? Can that be a thing? Instead of excitement for Valentine's Day or Christmas or even Easter – all of which have candy and presents and cute mythical creatures and people attached to them – do you think Lent will ever get over as a time that we get excited about?

Probably not. It is a season of fasting and confession and the Shadow of the Cross, for goodness sake. And as a progressive church and a progressive minister, these are not things that people of our ilk usually get excited about. In fact, we often shy away from confession and fasting and the Cross.

I may have to turn in my progressive card – and I'm not talking car insurance here folks! **But I am an unapologetic Lent Lover** and I am excited that on February 14<sup>th</sup> we begin the Season of Lent.

I am excited for the Season of Lent because this year we have a very special Lenten speaker series planned, **THE LAST LECTURE**. The book that inspired this speaker series was an international phenomenon. The book is in our KCC library if you want to read it. It is a heart-wrenching story of courage, love, and hope. And I was so moved by the book! Upon finishing it, I thought, 'what would I say if I have one last opportunity to share what is important to me?'

Then I wondered, 'what would the good people of KCC share?'

So I asked ... six of them. And on the **Mondays of Lent, starting February 19<sup>th</sup> and running through March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the Sanctuary**, a diverse group of women and men from KCC will share their LAST LECTURE with us. I wager you'll have your heart touched and faith deepened by their sharing.

I am also excited about Lent because of the six-week worship and faith programs series, **Lent: an Exodus Story**.

Over the six weeks of Lent, we will look at the story of God liberating the Hebrew people from the bondage of Pharaoh. It begins as a family squabble full of jealousy and betrayal, but that family is redeemed by love and recognizing God's hand in their lives allowing for reconciliation by grace and forgiveness to take place.

But soon that family story grows beyond familial ties to have socio-political ramifications. A whole people who have immigrated to a land, become oppressed and enslaved and used for the gains of the powerful of that land. A people made to be 'other', labeled as 'dangerous' and eventually not even viewed as human – and this story has happened over and over again throughout human history. But the cries of these people reach the ears of God, and YHWH intervenes into history to set the people free. The family story grows to become the story of Passover, the seminal story of the Jewish people.

The Passover story was so important to Jesus and his early followers. And if the story is important to Jesus, ought it be important to us? Passover is the reason Jesus is in Jerusalem when he was arrested and crucified. But in a mirror of the Passover event, God intervenes and hate and evil do not win.

So join us for Lent. It will be a time to go deeper into relationship with God and each other and our spiritual ancestors. It will be a time to rest in the Shadow of the Cross, pondering how we might better live into the ways of Christ, offering our prayers and working for the poor and oppressed in the world. It will be a time of dynamic worship filled with song and prayer, meditation and inspiration (and even a little dance). And maybe, just maybe, like me, **you'll fall in love with Lent, too!**

Peace. Love. Understanding.

*Pastor Darryl*