

Dear United Church Members and Friends,

This Sunday's reading will be our last Lectionary reading from John for this Lent. The past two weeks, we have read and considered two long readings from John that included, John 4 (the Samaritan woman at the well) and John 9 (the healing of the man blind from birth). This Sunday we will read selected verses from John 11 about the raising of Mary and Martha's brother, and Jesus' good friend, Lazarus. There is a lot that takes place and is spoken before Jesus calls Lazarus to "come out!" from the cave/tomb. Even though there is much celebration at the end, there is also unbelief and treacherous scheming by those who doubt what they saw and by religious authorities. This is probably because all of this took place in THIS life. And, as in our verses, all of it takes place between the two extremes of life and death. In this life (and in our reading), life and death are not disconnected from each other. While the raising of Lazarus from the dead points to Easter and Jesus' empty tomb, this was not the Resurrection. Lazarus was still living out—now his extended days—in this life... that side of Easter!

We could have long conversations about what side of Easter we're now living. But for our journey this Lent and our approach to this Holy Week (just a week away from Sunday!)—we live in this human condition where death is still part of this life. But we are invited to do so as people who can remember, believe, and trust that life now has the final say!

Join us for worship this Sunday at 9:30am in the Sanctuary or online at Unitedchurchla.org.

Scripture Reading: John 11:1-3, 17-27, 32-44

Sermon: "This Life"

Classes for all ages begin at 11am.

"Explorations of Exodus" class begins today in CE Rm. 311 (upstairs).

Class are available in person (Rm 311) and via Zoom. Leader: Kara Windler

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87660694763?pwd=iWCsPCe2IuKxtQhBTX9OXSmJaLnwO.1>

Join us on Thursday, March 26 at 6pm for the last Lenten program at Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church.

Grace and peace,

David