At its heart, Lent is a wilderness journey. The creators of this year’s Lenten theme, the team from A Sanctified Art, write this:

“Lent begins in the wilderness. The Spirit guides Jesus into the wilderness where he comes face to face with temptation and struggle. Yet, in his forty days of fasting, resisting, and wandering, Jesus is shaped and formed for ministry. Similarly, through the wilderness of Lent we are invited to surrender to the wild leadings of the Spirit.”

This Lent, we invite you to join the wilderness journey at Southside. May this journey through the wilderness, be filled with an abundance of gifts and the unfailing and constant accompaniment of the Spirit.

Special Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ash Wednesday</th>
<th>Palm Sunday</th>
<th>Maundy Thursday</th>
<th>Easter Sunrise</th>
<th>Easter Morning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 26</td>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>April 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>5:30pm</td>
<td>6:00 AM</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lenten Devotionals

Lenten Devotionals are available either for download or the church office will print one out for you. Please let us know if you would like an electronic or print copy.
March 1 | Matthew 4: 1-11 | Wilderness As a Place of Identity Formation
Much of who we are is shaped by the wilderness. Jesus finds his sense of call in the wilderness. In our own wilderness wanderings we are invited to remember who we are and whose we are.

March 8 | Psalm 121 | Wilderness As a Place of Assurance and Strength
The psalmist reminds us of the power of song when trudging through difficult or perilous wilderness spaces. In the wilderness of seeking justice, our songs give us courage and strength to climb even the highest of hills.

March 15 | Exodus 17:1-7 | Wilderness As a Place of God’s Provisions
The Israelites experience the full spectrum of emotions the wilderness incites — doubt and disillusionment, disorientation and disconnection. Memories of their liberation fade as their thirst deepens and they ask, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

March 22 | Psalm 23 | Wilderness as a Place of Hospitality
In the familiar words of Psalm 23, we find assurance in God’s provision and gracious hospitality to us even in the most difficult of situations.

March 29 | Ezekiel 37: 1-14 | Wilderness as a Place of New Life
At different times in our lives we may discover that we are in the Valley of Dry Bones; feeling stuck or depressed, navigating a failing marriage or working a job you hate, living with illness or chronic pain — these are all valleys of dry bones. In these spaces, we pray for God’s breath to rattle us towards wholeness.

April 5 | Matthew 21:1-11 | Palm/Passion Sunday
Sometimes the wilderness is isolating and lonely, and sometimes it is filled with crowds. On Palm Sunday, we find our place in the crowds, and we must ask ourselves where do we stand? As Jesus rides through Jerusalem on a colt, are we filled with reverence or dismay? As Holy Week begins, we follow Jesus through the wilderness journey to his death.

There is no quick or easy way out of the wilderness. Holy Week invites us to slow down, to face and feel the painful events of Jesus’ last days — for in these stories we may find glimpses of our own.

April 12 | John 20: 1-18 | Easter: The Wilderness Blooms
As the women leave the empty tomb, filled with shock and breathless joy, they begin a new journey. In these moments, their personal wilderness blooms with beauty and promise. As Easter people, the journey for us never ends. With the Spirit leading us forward, we celebrate the glimpses of resurrection sprouting up in the dry and cracked spaces of our lives.
Join us on Wednesday evenings during Lent for a light soup dinner and an exploration of a particular spiritual practice that we hope will enrich your Lenten Wilderness Journey. You are invited to bring a pot of soup with you!

Feb 26 | Ash Wednesday | Intergenerational Worship and Art Project
As we begin our Lenten Journey on Ash Wednesday we invite you to join us for a special evening “Bringing the Wilderness In.” This is an intergenerational activity where we will create wilderness vases using accompanying liturgy that meditates on the theme of wilderness through poetry, scripture and song. At the end of this service we will be marked with the ashes as we set out on our Lenten journeys.

March 4 | Lectio Divina
Lectio Divina, latin for “divine reading” is an ancient spiritual practice from the Benedictine tradition of intentionally and slowly reading through a passage of scripture. Through reading the text, meditation and prayer one draws close not just to the Living Word of Scriptures but to God.

March 11 | Visio Divina
Visio Divina, latin for “divine seeing,” is a method of meditation, reflection, and prayer through a process of intentional seeing. Visio Divina extends the 6th century Benedictine practice of Lectio Divina by the use of visual imagery. Traditionally, Visio Divina was accompanied by Benedictine iconography and illuminations, however, different faith traditions have adapted the process over time, utilizing both secular and nonsecular images. Together we will blend visual meditation with group discussion and bible study.

March 18 | Praying through the Wilderness
Join us as we explore various prayer practices by moving through different stations. From centering prayer, to the use of art as prayer, to a labyrinth that will be set up in the courtyard — there will be a multitude of ways to connect with a practice of prayer that will help you draw close to God. **This will be an interactive, multigenerational evening.**

March 25 | Yoga Breathing and Moving through the Wilderness
Join us as the Reverend Jen Soule-Hill leads us through basic yoga movements and breathing that will allow us to connect with our bodies on this wilderness journey. No experience necessary. All ages welcome. If you have a yoga mat, please consider bringing it with you.

April 1 | Entering the Wild
Join us for a fun, spirit filled evening where the wilderness of the Spirit of God, that bows through all of creation will be celebrated! More details to follow.

April 9 | Maundy Thursday
Gather with us during Holy Week for this very special intergenerational worship service. After gathering for dinner, just like the disciples did with Jesus, we will hear the story from scripture, wash each others feet, break bread and share the cup with one another as we reflect on Jesus’ great love for us. All ages are welcome for this tactile and experiential service.
It just wouldn’t be right to focus on the theme of “wilderness” without spending time in the beautiful wilderness spaces that surround us. Join us on Saturday mornings for a series of hikes where each and every step is a prayer of thanksgiving for creation.

**February 29th** | Lorraine Lee Trail in the Rincon Mountains | Behind Star Pass resort | Meet in the parking area behind the Star Pass Marriott Hotel at 8 a.m.

**March 7th** | Memorial for our beloved Dorothy Reid. (No hike)

**March 14th** | Baboquivari Spring hike | More details to follow

**March 21st** | Carrillo | Three Tanks trail in Rincon Mountains. Meet at Parking lot at end of East Speedway at 8 am.

**March 28** | Enchanted Trail | Mountain behind Alison and Bryan's home. | End of Shannon Rd, just south of San Juan Trail.

**April 4** | Sycamore Trail | Mile post 8 on Mt Lemmon Road. Meet 8 am at The Buz Coffee Shop NE corner of Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy.

**April 11** | King’s Canyon | Across from Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum at 8:30am. Meet at parking lot, just past the Sonoran Desert Museum.

Don’t forget sunscreen, good walking shoes, a hat, and water!