

## **Aesthetic Dimensions of Worship**

### **Lent 2022**

*The Worship Committee would like to share some of the aesthetic dimensions of our worship space here at New Horizon Presbyterian Church during this season of Lent. We hope it blesses you as much as it blesses those who prepare it.*

#### **Liturgical Colors**

Liturgical colors orient us to the seasons of the church year and help to engage the sense of sight in worship. Green is the color for “Ordinary Time,” marking the time between Easter and Christmas and vice versa. It symbolizes the hope and life of each new day. Red symbolizes the work of the Holy Spirit, and the sacrifices of martyrs. But as we enter the Season of Lent, you will see purple. Purple is the color of royalty and penitence, of wisdom, creativity, and nobility. It is used during periods of preparation and reflection such as Advent and Lent. On Good Friday, you will see black which symbolizes mourning. On Easter, you will be greeted with white and gold which symbolize days and seasons of joy and marks pivotal events in the life of Christ; and what could be more joyful than Christ’s resurrection!

#### **The Cross and Communion Table**

Take a moment to engage your sense of sight. Now look at the cross on the front lawn. For several months, it has hung bare and now it is draped with a purple cloth. When we drape the cross, we are reminded visually that our faith and eternal life is made possible only through the work of Christ in his suffering and death. The drape on the cross will change to black on Good Friday, representing Christ’s death on the cross for our sins. When Easter Sunday arrives, the drape on the cross will be replaced with white, representing purity and the joy of Christ’s resurrection.

The communion table is now covered in purple and will remain that way until Good Friday when it will be stripped of color until Easter. At Easter, it will be dressed in white to remind us of the joy of Christ’s resurrection.

#### **Table Collage**

The table collage on the Chancel depicts the events of Holy Week.

- A palm in reference to Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem. (*Matthew 21:1–11, Mark 11:1–11, Luke 19:28–44, and John 12:12–19*)
- A money bag in reference to Jesus finding the Temple full of corrupt moneychangers. (*Matthew 21:12–17, Mark 11:15–19, Luke 19:45–48, John 2:13–16*)
- A basin in remembrance of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. (*Matthew 26:14–39, Luke 22:24–27, and John 13:1–17*)
- The bread and wine representing the Last Supper. (*Matthew 26:17–29; Mark 14:12–25; Luke 22:7–38*)
- The rooster symbolizing Peter denying his Master three times before the cock crowed. (*Matthew 26:33–35, 69–75; Mark 14:29–31, 66–72; Luke 22:31–34, 54–62; John 13:36–38, 18:25–27, 21:15–19*)
- The crown of thorns in remembrance of the crown He wore to Calvary. (*Matthew 27: 27–31, Mark 15:16–20, John 19: 1–6*)
- The cross depicting the cross Jesus was crucified upon. (*Matthew 27: 33–50, Mark 15: 21–38, Luke 23:26–43, John 19: 16–30*)

## **Banners**

The black banners hung on either side of the Sanctuary during Lent were made by many loving hands in our congregation several years ago. They too depict the events of Holy Week. On Palm Sunday, they will be joined by hand-painted banners depicting palm branches. The palm frond was a symbol of triumph in Roman times. It was a fitting tribute for the return of a triumphant king. The Israelites waited for their King; Jesus fulfilled this prophecy when he entered Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. With Easter comes new joy and color.

## **Easter Lilies**

Mentioned many times in the Bible, the white lily symbolizes purity, rebirth, new beginnings, and hope; and is most often associated with the resurrection of Jesus Christ as observed on Easter.

*We invite you to take time to rediscover and appreciate the visual aspects that surround you as you experience the journey of Lent and Easter.*