



HYMN OF THE MONTH – MARCH 2018

JESUS WALKED THIS LONESOME VALLEY

“Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Rom 12:2).

The season of Lent represents the 40 days when Jesus wandered in the desert praying and fasting, where he faced and defied Satan’s repeated temptations. The purpose of Lent is to prepare for Easter through prayer, repentance and self-denial with the aim of renewal and refocusing our lives on our relationship with God. Fr. Michael Fuller states that fasting, abstinence and giving up attachments are forms of self-denial, which trains the soul to desire things less and desire God more.

“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley” is a hymn that describes the lonesome journey of Jesus in the wilderness as he struggled with the temptations Satan sat before him. It encourages us to bear our own burdens in our discipleship with Jesus, as we “walk our lonesome valleys” and “stand our trials.”

Although the origins of this hymn are not certain, it is widely considered to have begun as an African-American Spiritual. Until recently, African-American spirituals had not been included in hymnals used in white American churches. But as they have gained popularity we now find this hymn included in a majority of recent hymnals and supplements. In these books it is described as either; American spiritual, traditional spiritual, African American spiritual or American folk hymn. Edwin John Stringham has noted, “ that African-American spirituals express, through singularly original words and music, the deepest religious emotions and feelings of a transplanted and enslaved people, seeking hope and redemption and final rest with their God.”

Its first known recording was in 1927 by old-time musician David Miller. Through the years, it has been sung by many other country artists such as the Monroe Brothers, the Carter Family, The Statler Brothers, the Dixie Reelers, Woody Guthrie and others. It was also recorded by Elvis Presley in 1956

According to Hymnstudiesblog, “the song compares the experiences of Jesus to the lives that we must lead as we journey toward heaven.”

“Few today may have experienced literal slavery, but all Christians have at one time been slaves to sin, and as we struggle through the trials and difficulties of this life, it should be of great comfort and assurance to be reminded that “Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley.”

Resources: Hymnstudiesblog, Wikipedia, wikisource.org, Eileen M. Johnson-hymnary.org article

**There will be a
Pro-Reconciliation/Anti Racism training
March 9 in Columbia, MO.**

Here is the information about the meeting:

This entry level Anti-racism training is provided by our Mid-America Regional Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism team. The schedule includes speakers, video, interactive experiences and conversation.

Attendees will learn to:

Name and understand key terms/concepts related to racism

Describe current and historic examples of institutional racism, white privilege, civil and human rights in the U.S.

Explore and articulate biblical foundations for justice ministry

Engage in informed dialogue about current issues of racism and work toward reconciliation in the U.S. and in local communities

Begin to develop personal and community-based "Next Steps" to address systemic racism in participants' own communities.

Pastor Brown, Rick Rollings and Sara Reiter attended this same seminar a couple of years ago and said it was excellent. If anyone is interested in participating, please let Janet in the office know or Margaret Weber (310.383.4256). There is some funding available to support registrations.

Here is the link for registering:

<https://docgeneralassembly.webconnex.com/2017-CCMA-ARPR1>

**New Worship Schedule
Community Christian Church (DOC)
Camdenton, Missouri
Starts April 8, 2018**

*Mission Statement: to proclaim
Christ's love to all through Worship,
Study, Fellowship, and Service.*

8:30 am Worship

- similar to our previous 8:00 am service
- year-round
- outdoors during the warm months
- sanctuary during the cold months

9:30 am Sunday School for all ages

- increased minutes for learning
- time for fellowship between services and the protected Sunday School hour

10:45 am Worship

- similar to our previous 9:00 am service
- year-round
- located in the sanctuary

5:00 pm Worship

- intergenerational, interactive, participatory
- located in the Fellowship Hall
- food welcome
- This is not Encounter. Encounter worship will be finished at the end of March. This is something new.