

**West View Methodist Church**  
**DAILY DEVOTIONS: LENT WEEK 4**



**DAVID**

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**AN ETERNAL COVENANT**

Much of this week's devotions' content was sourced from a book by Robb, Susan. *Remember*. Cokesbury, United Methodist Publishing House - CoreSource Plus, 2023.

## MONDAY – Remember – God looks at your heart



**1 Samuel 16: 7** *But the Lord said to Samuel, “Don’t judge by his appearance of height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”*

God desires worship that stems from a heart that is fully devoted to Him. It calls us to cultivate authentic and sincere expressions of love, praise and obedience rather than engaging in superficial or ritualistic practices.

The Holy Spirit challenges us to prioritise the development of our character, aligning our thoughts, desires and attitudes with the teachings of Christ. We are called to recognise that God’s favour and acceptance are not based on worldly standards such as wealth, physical attractiveness or social status. Instead, God values our trust, obedience and faithfulness in Him.

The reality of God seeing the heart, challenges us to align our internal convictions with our outward actions, demonstrating a genuine faith that permeates

every aspect of our lives. God is Spirit, and we must worship Him in Spirit and Truth. He is God of the unseen things of the heart and our deepest thoughts.

Understanding that God looks at the heart teaches us to examine our motives, thoughts and actions. We can cultivate deeper, more meaningful relationships that reflect the love of Christ. This humility helps us grow in grace, acknowledging our need for God’s guidance and correction. This attitude allows us to extend grace, forgiveness and support to those in need.

We require God’s help and empowerment to worship Him as He is and please Him by walking by the gift of faith. Let us open our hearts to God to be transformed to be people after His heart.



**Prayer:** Change my heart O God. Make it ever true! AMEN

## TUESDAY – Remember – God is with us



**2 Samuel 7: 10-11** *And I will provide a place for My people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over My people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.*

God reminds David that He selected him as king when he was still a young boy because he saw the quality of the young man by looking into his heart. He protected David when he confronted Goliath, when Saul tried to kill him and during many battles.

God guided David to become the great king who sought to lead Israel. He brought peace and stability to Israel which functioned as a nation with its own land, fully realising God's covenant with Abraham.

The words God speaks to David provided comfort and hope to the Jewish people when the temple was destroyed and the people were taken into exile in a foreign

land. With no temple in which to worship, they remembered that God did not need a house to be present among them. God moves with them and among them. They remembered the promise that, God would never remove God's steadfast love from them. They received hope through this covenant that they would one day return home and that God would raise a descendant of David to lead Israel once more.

God's covenant with David has shaped Christians' understanding of Jesus as the Messiah. We, too, can remember that God is always with us no matter how alone we feel. He will never take His love away from us but will always seek to lead us back home to Him.



**Prayer:** Loving God, thank you for always being with us. AMEN

## WEDNESDAY – Remember – God restores sinners



**2 Samuel 11: 2** *Late one afternoon, after his midday rest, David got out of bed and was walking on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a woman of unusual beauty taking a bath.*

Despite God's promises and everything God has done for him, David fails to keep faith. After he sees Bathsheba bathing on her rooftop, he summons her to his palace and begins an affair with her—even though Uriah, her husband, who is also one of David's loyal officers, is off fighting a war for David. When Bathsheba informs the king she's pregnant, David tries to conceal his transgression from public knowledge.

When David realises that her husband will learn the truth, he orders his general to send Uriah to the front lines and leave him exposed to enemy fire, knowing he'll be killed. While God has been faithful to David, David manages to break the covenantal commandments against coveting, stealing, adultery, murder and false witness in one fell swoop!

David remains in denial about his sin (his unspoken motto becomes "out of sight, out of mind") until his astute prophet, Nathan, notices a stench coming from the palace walls and confronts him. Today, we might call the prophet's action an intervention. Through Nathan, David is forced to face his brokenness.

David then confesses his sin and asks God to "*Create in me a clean heart, O God*" (Psalm 51: 10). He admits his sinning was against God. He also confesses his human sinful nature. He longs for joy to return to him but knows he is suffering because God has turned away from him. His confession is heard and God forgives and restores him.

Let us remember that God forgives a heart that returns to Him!



**Prayer:** Thank you Lord that You were always with me and always will be with me. AMEN

## THURSDAY – Remember to look inside ourselves



**Psalm 51: 1** *Have mercy on me, O God, because of Your unfaithful love. Because of Your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins.*

Because we are born sinners, our natural inclination is to please ourselves rather than God. David followed that inclination when he took another man's wife. Like David, we must ask God to cleanse us from within, filling our hearts and spirits with new thoughts and desires. Right conduct only comes from a clean heart and spirit.

During Ash Wednesday and throughout the Lenten season, we put aside the sins and failures of the past in the light of who we are yet to become by the grace of God. This is a season of reflection, a time to take an honest look inside ourselves, at the condition of our hearts—to see where there might be some room

for improvement—and renew our commitment to following Jesus on His journey to the cross.

The Scripture readings in Psalm 51 offers us the opportunity to allow God to shine a light in the dark, damp chambers of our hearts and help us clean up the mess we have left behind. Encouraging us to own up to our rotten attitudes and behaviours, these readings call us to grow up in our faith, take responsibility for our failures and say “I’m sorry” to the One who wants more than anything to restore us to the relationship for which we were created, a relationship that brings joy, allowing us to move past our failures and grow into what we are yet to be by the grace of God.



**Prayer:** Dear Lord, please create a pure heart and spirit in me.  
AMEN

## FRIDAY – Remember the King of Kings



**Luke 1: 31-33** “You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; His kingdom will never end.”

Soon, on Good Friday, we will have the opportunity to take an honest look inside the tomb of the broken, lifeless body of Jesus, our king whose kingdom shall have no end. Then, thankfully, we can follow Jesus’s friends and look with them inside the empty tomb on Easter morning. The good news is that we, like David, are never beyond God’s ability and desire to restore, heal and raise us from the ashes of our past failures. We, too, can be people after God’s own heart. We can cling with hope to the covenant God made with David—the covenant fulfilled in the Son of David whose birth was announced to Mary by the angel Gabriel.

We can remember the covenant God made with David, as we look to the cross on which the Son of David, the Son of the Most High, the Christ, the Anointed One gave His life that we might have new life and become a new creation—over and over again.

May you know with certainty that the God who remembered Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David remembers you. May you know with certainty that the Son of David, the Son of God, will never remove His steadfast love from you. For His cross stands as a promise of His eternal love for you and all of God’s children.



**Prayer:** Thank you Lord that I am not beyond Your ability and desire to restore, heal and raise me from my past failures. AMEN