

# The Good News

April 2022

Holy Week and Easter

**H O L Y   W E E K**



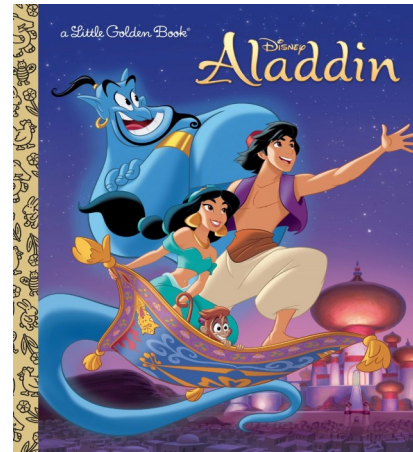
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## Aladdin, Jasmine, and Genie

by Pastor Jacob Eun

My brother flew in from Korea last week, and I was able to spend a good amount of time with him. We went to watch one of the Broadway shows, Aladdin. I'm sure you know but it is about Aladdin, a lovable street urchin, and Jasmine, the beautiful daughter of Sultan of Agrabah, falling in love but a peddler can't marry a princess. The story takes a drastic turn when Aladdin finds a magic lamp, and within the lamp, Genie who grants three wishes.

But here is what I want us to shift our attention to. All these three characters have in common: they are all trapped. Aladdin in a street filled with dirt. Jasmine in a gold plated palace especially when her father, sultan, is arranging a marriage for her. And Genie in the lamp. Aladdin had wished Genie to make him a prince. A prince with 75 golden camels, 53 purple peacocks, 95 Persian monkeys, and the song goes on. A pompous entry on an embellished elephant to the city. He confidently presented a grandeur proposal, but Jasmine was not impressed. Here, Aladdin learns a lesson of authenticity. He did not have to be someone else to earn Jasmine's heart. It was through authentic relationships that all three were liberated.



In this Lenten journey, our goal is to let go of the things that make us feel trapped, contained, and shackled. What is containing you in a palace? What is trapping you in a lamp? It could be unresolved conflicts with family or friends. You could be complacent with your life and faith and see no need to go deeper with God and with others. You could be going through difficult times such as separations, unachieved hopes and dreams, financial struggles,

and so on.

We are in this Lenten journey of fasting, prayer, reflection, and almsgiving. We are heading towards Easter. Easter does not mean God will be your personal genie and make your three wishes come true. But true freedom and liberation can be found in our authentic, genuine, and personal relationship with God and with others. There, we will find

unshakable. Wait with an expectant heart that Jesus' new life is mine, that Jesus' resurrection is mine, and that we will experience God's liberating hands.

### **New Worship Series: Beauty for Ashes**

We have looked at stories of women who encountered Jesus and how Jesus' ministry liberated and empowered them. When these women met Jesus and laid their ashes (symbolizing two things: mortality and sin), Jesus took their ashes in and traded for something beautiful: new life. We will continue our worship series with an invitation to do the same. Come to Christ as you are and watch how God will trade your ashes for a beauty!

#### **4.10 Palm Sunday Anointing Jesus**

No male disciple foresaw the death of Jesus but only one woman did. She anoints Jesus with a jar of perfume. She helps us prepare on this day of Jesus' triumph entry to Jerusalem that after all, Jesus will die for us, becoming the ashes on our behalf.

#### **4.14 Maundy Thursday at 7pm**

To remember Jesus' loving acts, we will share the bread and juice as well as include the washing of hands. May we be reminded of his unconditional love.

#### **4.15 Good Friday at 7pm**

The night Jesus was in agony and died is called Good Friday. How can one's death be called good?

#### **4.17 Easter Sunday**

Jesus rose from the ashes! Our healer and redeemer! We will celebrate the gift of new life and eternal life that Jesus gives to us on Easter Sunday.



### **Pastor Jacob's New Appointment**

Some of you may have not heard the news yet. I am appointed to a new parish, Huntington United Methodist Church in Shelton, CT as of July 1. It was decided on Wednesday, March 2 and was announced on Sunday, March 6. I'm sure that everyone including myself was surprised by the news.

I am still processing and digesting it. It is saddening to leave a church where I consider my home and my family. I experienced significant losses and separations while I was in Wallingford. I lost my dog, Thor. I lost my best friend. My parents went back to Korea. I felt alone and honestly, overwhelmed. But it was your love that gave me strength and peace. It breaks my heart to leave a church where I can call my home, my family.

At the same time, I am excited for new chapters of our journey. I am given an opportunity to extend my family in Christ. You will have a new pastor who will bring different gifts and graces to our church.

One of my daily devotions talked about Romans 13:8, which reminded me of our church family. It reads, "Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law" (ESV). I received so much love that I owe nothing but love to you all. As God has shown love to me, as you all have shown love to me, I am in debt of love. And I will pay the debt of love with people I will come across. As you will receive a new pastor, I have no doubt that you will show love and support that I experienced here.

It is too early for goodbyes. We will continue doing what we have been doing. We will dedicate May and/or June to reflect on our journey together and look forward to where God is leading us. Fervently pray for our new pastor. Let us ask God to open our hearts to welcome with great love. Let love be our only debt!

## To Be United Methodist: What is Itineracy?

When people new to United Methodism hear that a new pastor will soon be serving their congregation, they may ask: Why don't we get to choose our pastor? Who makes these decisions?

The short answers describe how United Methodists have agreed to meet the pastoral needs of congregations. John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, preached up to 40,000 sermons in his lifetime. He was an "itinerant" preacher, traveling from town to town in England, setting up Methodist societies. Thousands of the oldest United Methodist congregations today trace their history to a circuit rider.

This traveling from place to place to begin Methodist societies in principle led to the itinerant system The United Methodist Church uses today.

"Itinerancy" refers specifically to the commitment by pastors to go and serve wherever their bishops send them. "Appointment" is the action taken by bishops. These are different, yet related.

Before they are ordained or licensed, clergy in The United Methodist Church agree to serve where their bishop appoints them. Appointments are for one year at a time. For elders and local pastors, particularly, the goal is to match the gifts and graces of the particular pastor with the ministry needs of a particular congregation. In this "serial leadership" of consecutive pastors – no two are alike – over time, the combination of skills blends to form a broad base of developed ministries.



From: [resourceumc.org](http://resourceumc.org)

## A Prayer for Ukraine

We lift up a prayer called Prayer for Ukraine. It is a hymn and prayer that was cited when Ukraine gained independence from the Soviet Union and is sung now in response to the 2022 Russian invasion.

Lord, oh the Great and Almighty,  
Protect our beloved Ukraine,  
Bless her with freedom and light  
Of your holy rays.

With learning and knowledge enlighten  
Us, your children small,  
In love pure and everlasting  
Let us, oh Lord, grow.

We pray, oh Lord Almighty,  
Protect our beloved Ukraine,  
Grant our people and country  
All your kindness and grace.

Bless us with freedom, bless us with wisdom,  
Guide into kind world,  
Bless us, oh Lord, with good fortune  
For ever and evermore.



## Ukraine Relief

United Methodists and others wishing to provide humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people in the wake of the Russian invasion of their country may contribute to **Advance #982450, UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery**. This fund will provide direct assistance to those in Ukraine as well as assistance to Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries.

Gifts to support the people of Ukraine can be made in the following ways:

- Online at <https://umcmision.org/advance-project/982450>
- By toll free telephone: 888-252-6174
- By check with "Advance #982450-Ukraine" written on the memo line, either mailed and addressed to Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087-9068 or given at or through any United Methodist church

**One hundred percent of all Advance contributions go to the designated cause.**

## Ministry Snippets

New screen, coffee hour, and shred day



## East Berlin Caught on Fire

Keep them in your prayers



## Mark Your Calendar

4.5 (Tue)	Trustees	6:30pm	Asbury
4.10 (Sun)	Palm Sunday		
4.12 (Tue)	Church Council		
4.14 (Thu)	Maundy Thursday	7:00pm	
4.15 (Fri)	Good Friday	7:00pm	
4.17 (Sun)	Easter Sunday		
4.28 (Thu)	Scout Pasta Night		

## Happy Birthday (April)

4 Jamie Rolan	11 Vernon Grant	13 John Baksa
19 Jim Gardner	21 Priscilla Perrin	22 Sherri Willhelm
23 Valerie Gwara	24 Richard Miller	25 Gail Mackiewicz
26 Emmy Lou Atherholt		
26 Steve Hubbard	28 Ashley Holuba	



## **The First United Methodist Church of Wallingford**

**Mailing Address:**

**P.O. Box 6089**

**Wallingford, CT 06492**

**Building address:**

**941 Old Rock Hill Road**

**Wallingford, CT 06492**

**For any questions, comments, or changes,**

**please contact us at 203.269.9100**

**or [fumc.wallingford@gmail.com](mailto:fumc.wallingford@gmail.com)**

## **Announcements**

### **Welcome**

1. To schedule a time with Pastor Jacob, you can call 203-615-3214 or email at [pastor.fumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.fumc@gmail.com).
2. Connect with us online. Search First United Methodist Church of Wallingford on Facebook and like our page! Or go on our website [www.fumc-wallingford.org](http://www.fumc-wallingford.org)

### **Announcements**

1. We have a new mailing address (P.O. Box 6089, Wallingford, CT 06492)
2. We are looking for one to three volunteers for our mini orchestra who will play during our worship service. Please let Pastor Jacob know if you know someone who is interested.

### **Support Our Ministries**

1. You can support our church by shopping with scrip cards (ask Diane) and shopping at smile. amazon.com (with scrip cards you purchase) by selecting Wallingford United Methodist Church as your charitable organization.
2. We are grateful for your generous gifts contributed through our online website or mail that enabled us to serve faithfully our church family and our wider community. Here are three ways you can give:

Online: [www.fumc-wallingford.org/give](http://www.fumc-wallingford.org/give)

Mail your gift to P.O. Box 6089, Wallingford, CT 06492

Or drop at church (941 Old Rock Hill Road, Wallingford, CT 06492)