



Rapid Valley United Methodist Church

# Valley Views

April 2021

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## Pastor's Corner

Hello church family,

As I led Easter worship this morning, I couldn't help but to be pleasantly distracted by all of the beautiful Easter lilies which were brought to the church. So I was curious as to some of the history surrounding this flower and found this article I thought I'd share with you all. I hope it enlightens and inspires you as it did me.

Blessings,

Pastor Mark

### **SPIRITUAL HISTORY OF THE LILY**

Known as the "white-robed apostles of hope," fragrant white lilies were believed to symbolize the purity of Christ. Turns out that in art dating back to the 14th century, the Archangel Gabriel is often depicted giving the Virgin Mary a lily when telling her that she would conceive a son by the power of the Holy Spirit. Thus the flower became associated with rebirth as well as a symbol of loss which is why the lily is used in funerals to connect the departed to God. So we have ancient artists like Leonardo da Vinci to thank for this becoming part of our current traditions.

The trumpet shape of the Easter lily also fit into the image

of a trumpet sounding the message that Jesus had risen and thus loss becomes a form of rebirth too. Also, since lilies start as ugly bulbs that live underground for at least three years and then bloom into these fragrant flowers, this is a metaphor for transformation. Jesus died a brutal death but then had a holy resurrection which has been the root of Christian faith.

Adding another layer to the lily's significance was how the scholars of St. Bernard's time also pointed out how the name Nazareth in Hebrew signifies a flower. Beautiful legends emerged to explain the origin of the flower. It was told that the lily sprang from the tears of Eve, when she was expelled from the Garden of Eden. But it was yellow until the day that the Virgin Mary stooped to pick it, thus symbolizing the role of the New Eve in restoring to the world the innocence lost by Eve.

And it appears that Jesus had a particular fondness for this flower. He said to his disciples, "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

So today is a time to reflect on loss, rebirths and especially

the beauty of the white lily.

### **FOOD BANK**

We host the Food Bank in loading cars with a box of food on the last Wednesday of each month. You do not have to qualify for receiving the food.

### **ONLINE GIVING AVAILABLE**

RVUMC has provided other opportunities and ways for people to give to our church. We have a link on our website: [rapidvalleyumc.com](http://rapidvalleyumc.com) where you can click on "give" to enter a credit card number or checking account and routing number. You can set up a one time gift or a recurring gift, whatever works best for you. Of course you may still send a physical check to the church office at 5103 Longview Drive as well. Just creating more opportunities for you to take advantage of. Thanks to all who are demonstrating such faithfulness in remembering the church!