*“Let us acknowledge the Lord; let us press on to acknowledge Him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; He will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.”* Hosea 6:3

I write this message while entering the last week of Lent, where soon, we will get a sneak peek at our King, honored in Jerusalem with palms and praises. Hosanna in the Highest! We are much like the Jews, who got caught up in the procession of Jesus’ entry that day. We, too, have become consumed with the anticipation of what might be just around the corner. After 40 days observing Lent, preceded by months of cold dreary weather and lots of snow, we now get to celebrate the coming of spring. Fresh new life is poking its head out of the ground more enthusiastically each day. Long daylight hours give us opportunity to breathe in more of God’s beauty. By the time you read this, spring will have officially arrived and hopefully more green will have showered the earth. As we conclude our Lenten rituals, fasting, sacrificing or enhancing our prayer lives, we also come to the end of another winter. It is the time of year we supersize our hopes and dreams while waiting for warmer sunny days. As we long for the future though, don’t forget that, regardless of the season, or personal circumstances, *every* day is a gift from God. A gift meant to be used for His glory. “We are where we need to be and learning what we need to learn,” offers author Ron Ash. “Stay the course because the things we experience today will lead us to where He needs us to be tomorrow.” It may not always feel like it, but even when we are at our lowest, God has taken the necessary steps to be in those pits with us. And is working it into His plan. Remember, as we plowed through the drab winter days and nights, went about our routines, took time to meet for soup suppers and prepare for Easter, God has been in all of it. From sickness to recovery, from sadness to joyfulness, from death to new life. Greet *every* day as opportunity to praise God for such blessings. Ecclesiastes writes “In every season, there is a reason to rejoice and an opportunity to do good things.” The challenge is to find something to rejoice about and do some good *every* day. Just as the winter blossoms to spring, so our lives continually bloom and grow under the watch of our Mighty Creator. Blessings, joy, hope and peace be with you all this newly anticipated day and all of your tomorrows.

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”* Jeremiah 29:11.

***Pastor Cheri***