



FIFTH SUNDAY
in
LENT

Worship Celebration

March 21, 2021 + 11 AM

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. The word, "lent," comes from the Anglo-Saxon word, lencten, meaning "spring" and referring to the lengthening of days this time of year. Historically, Lent began as a season of fasting and preparation especially for new converts to Christianity who would be baptized on Easter Sunday. It is now a season of preparation for all of us as we look forward to Jesus' resurrection at Easter and prepare to live in the world as God's Easter people. The main color in worship during this season of preparation and penitence is purple.

Welcome to The United Methodist Church of Berea!

*As followers of Jesus Christ, who reveals a God whose love knows no boundaries, we are committed to welcoming and affirming every person as a beloved child of God. Every person—of every sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, economic status, health, ability, or any other identifying label—is welcome to participate fully in our ministries and life together as church. We hope The UMC of Berea will become a home for you, your family, and your friends as together, **we make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.***

Join us in worship, this week and every week:

Sunday at 11AM online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos) and in the Sanctuary

Monday—Friday at 9AM (Morning Prayer) via Zoom (meeting id: 518 014 483)

Wednesday at 7PM (Evening Prayer) via Zoom (meeting id: 848 4741 1964; passcode: 195510)

In preparation for worship, you are encouraged to light a candle as a reminder of God's presence.

We Gather as God's Children

Prelude

Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound

arr. George Shearing

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayer

God of love and mercy, open our lives to your presence as we worship you today.

*Whether our prayers are filled with celebration or with cries and tears,
remind us that you are the source of our salvation.*

*Give us strength to respond faithfully to your transforming love,
that the joy of your salvation might shine in and through us all.*

*Wipe away our harmful words and actions; set us right from the inside out;
and draw us more fully into your loving image.*

In the name of the glorified Christ, we worship and pray. Amen.

Hymn

Here I Am to Worship

WS 3177

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes, let me see.

Beauty that made this heart adore you, hope of a life spent with you.

Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that you're my God.

You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, O so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above.

Humbly you came to the earth you created, all for love's sake became poor.

Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that you're my God.

You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.

And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.

I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.

Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that you're my God.

You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.

*Here I Am to Worship / Tim Hughes / 2000 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing
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Prayer of Confession—Psalm 51.1-12 (UMH 785)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

***Against you, you only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless in your judgment.***

Behold, I was born into iniquity, and I have been sinful since my mother conceived me.

Behold, you desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow;

Make me hear with joy and gladness; let the bones which you have broken rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

**Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.
You are the Potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.**

*Change My Heart, O God / Eddie Espinosa / 1982 Mercy, Vineyard Publishing
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We Grow in God's Word

Leader: With disciples of every time and place, let us listen for the word of God among us.

People: *Our ears and hearts are open.*

Children's Message

Gospel Lesson—John 12.20-33 (CEB)

²⁰Some Greeks were among those who had come up to worship at the festival. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and made a request: "Sir, we want to see Jesus." ²²Philip told Andrew, and Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

²³Jesus replied, "The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴I assure you that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it can only be a single seed. But if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their lives will lose them, and those who hate their lives in this world will keep them forever. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me. Wherever I am, there my servant will also be. My Father will honor whoever serves me.

²⁷"Now *I am deeply troubled*. What should I say? 'Father, save me from this time'? No, for this is the reason I have come to this time. ²⁸Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

²⁹The crowd standing there heard and said, "It's thunder." Others said, "An angel spoke to him."

³⁰Jesus replied, "This voice wasn't for my benefit but for yours. ³¹Now is the time for judgment of this world. Now this world's ruler will be thrown out. ³²When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to me." (³³He said this to show how he was going to die.)

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Opportunities for Ministry and Invitation to Give our Tithes and Offerings

Some of us may be experiencing financial hardship or uncertainty during this season, but our generosity through the life of the church remains crucial as an expression of our discipleship and to ensuring that we can maintain our commitments to mission and ministry during this uncertain time. If you already give financially online (www.umcb.org/donate) or by mailing a check to the church office, thank you! If you do not do so already, please consider giving through one of these methods now as we continue to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Doxology

(to the tune of Amazing Grace, UMH 378)

***Praise God our Maker, Christ the Son, who came to walk this earth.
Through joy and pain he knows our life, with Spirit, gives new birth.***

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

Generous and all-loving God, grant us the wisdom to know you more completely.

Give us the hope to live as your people.

Inspire us to give of ourselves more fully, in the faith that your promise already is within us.

As we give our gifts and tithes today,

we recommit ourselves to your service and the service of your people.

May we do so in response to your unending call that summons us and leads us home. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

This Is a Day of New Beginnings (vv. 1-4)

UMH 383

*This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.*

*For by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.*

*Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.*

Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do.

This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.

*This Is a Day of New Beginnings / Brian Wren, Carlton R. Young / 1987 Hope Publishing Company
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Benediction

In anticipation of the transforming love of God,

the salvation of Jesus Christ,

and the mercy of the ever-present Holy Spirit,

may we listen for the voice of God and be restored in the joy of our salvation.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Benediction Response

Change My Heart, O God

TFWS 2152

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

You are the Potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

*Change My Heart, O God / Eddie Espinosa / 1982 Mercy, Vineyard Publishing
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***Our service of worship is ended.
Our worship through service now begins.***

Worship Participants

Pastors

Rev. Nathan Howe
Rev. Carrie Antczak

Music

Dr. Barbara MacGregor, *Organ*
Courtney Popp, *Choir Director*
Jeffrey Jaskolka, *Piano*
Jeremy Piper, *Praise Band Leader*

Video Production

Mark Williams

Morning Prayer

Loving God, you offer the gift of new life each day.
Open my heart to receive this grace
that I may be wholly yours,
then give me the courage to share this gift
wherever I go
as I seek to walk in your way of mercy,
forgiveness, and newness of life. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Forgiving God, who makes all things new,
you know where I have flourished this day,
and you know where I have failed.
Help me to know that in all my challenges
there is a seed of hope
that enables me to more faithfully depend on you.
May I rest in peace this night
and awake refreshed
to greet the newness of your day. Amen.

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Pastoral Care, Prayer Requests, and Care Leaders

Please reach out to **Pastor Nathan** (nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101) if you would like to schedule an individual time to talk or if you have a specific prayer request. Likewise, if you find yourself needing food or other supplies and unable to get them, please contact me, and we will do our best to care for you. While we are apart from one another physically, we remain connected through our common mission and through our mutual concern and care. As an expression of our connection, we now have a team of “care leaders” who are making phone calls throughout the course of the week to check in, be in conversation, and share prayer requests. If you have not heard from a “care leader” yet and would like to connect this way, or if you would like to serve as a “care leader,” please contact **Pastor Nathan** at 440-234-3525 x101 or nhowe@umcb.org.

Staff & Office Hours

For the protection of all, our staff continues to work from home whenever possible. If you contact the staff by email or phone message, please be assured they will respond as quickly as they are able. If your business requires a visit to the church building, please call in advance to ensure a staff member will be available.

You can reach the church office by email (ebarner@umcb.org), by leaving a voicemail on the church office phone (440-234-3525 x100) or by calling 440-710-4498 (Beth's home office phone). All messages will be answered during office hours (9AM-3PM weekdays).



Additional Worship Opportunities:

Morning Prayer

Mondays through Fridays

9:00AM

via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/518014483>

Evening Prayer via Zoom

Wednesdays

7:00PM

via Zoom

Meeting ID: 848 4741 1964

Passcode: 195510

All are welcome to join us for a brief worship service to re-center and re-focus together around scripture and prayer in the middle of the week.

For more information, contact **Pastor Nathan** at nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101.



Share a story of faith

Share a story of faith in the daily prayer emails. While we are not producing a paper Lenten devotional this year, we are asking for your stories! Simply write a short reflection and add a prayer if you choose.

For a Scripture and date, contact **Pastor Nathan** at nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101.



Prayer Walk

Throughout Lent (Weather Permitting) Outside the Church

Going on a walk? Walk with God on our "prayer walk" available on dry days outside our church all through Lent. Families will take turns sharing prayer prompts. Invite neighbors to check it out as well!



A Disciple's Path: Reconnecting with your Faith Journey

Have you been connecting with our church over the course of this unique time and are wondering, what's next? How can I become more involved with this congregation - or what is my next step in discipleship?

Members who would like to "begin again" or recommit to their discipleship, as well as new and old friends, are invited to consider joining us for an upcoming faith formation group that will help us all reconnect to our discipleship. The main goal is to encourage you to continue in your discipleship "path" wherever that may lead.

This group will meet virtually for the comfort and safety of everyone. If you are interested, please let us know and we'll add you to our list of friends who would like to do this together. We'll then send out a survey asking for your availability in terms of time and days. We hope to begin in late spring.

If there's any other way we can be of support to your faith journey, please share your ideas and needs. We're here to listen and support you!

For more information, contact Pastor Carrie at cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x105.



Food Collection for Local Food Pantries

Wednesdays, 4:00-7:00PM, In Front of the Red Doors on Seminary Street

Collections of food for local food banks will continue with some changes. When you drop off your donation pull up to the red doors, flash your lights and beep your horn. A masked church member will come out to accept your donation.

If you are not planning already to make a trip to the grocery store, please feel free to participate with a monetary donation instead, either by mailing a check to the church office or online at www.umcb.org/donate. Please note "food pantry" on the description line. Thank you for supporting this effort.



Loose Change Offering

As a congregation committed to mission, our loose change offering gave a "boost" to the missions and programs that are strengthening our church and communities near and far. March's selected mission is Hanson House. See page 7 of the March Caller at www.umcb.org/the-caller for more information.

Each month, you can support by either mailing in an offering, or doing so electronically at www.umcb.org/donate using the "other" box to donate the mission or simply "loose change offering".



Have a Heart collection for OhioGuidestone

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated to our "Have a Heart" collection for OhioGuidestone. Thanks to your generosity, the youth in their residential campus now have enough hygiene supplies to last them for a year! We also collected some very nice new clothes, shoes, underwear and socks to have on hand for new admissions. All donated items have been delivered as of the first week of March.

If you would like to do anything further, please contact
Laura Rushton (567-303-1954 or jlaurush@gmail.com),
Pastor Carrie (440-234-3525 x105 or cantczak@umcb.org),
or **Pastor Nathan** (440-234-3525 x100 or nhowe@umcb.org).

Information Regarding COVID-19 Vaccinations

As an expression of love for our neighbors and for the well-being of our entire community, each of us is encouraged to receive the COVID-19 vaccine when we are eligible to do so.

Beginning Friday, March 19, all Ohioans age 40 and over are eligible to receive one of the vaccines. Visit <https://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov/> or call 2-1-1 (United Way's 211 HelpLink) on weekdays between 8AM and 4PM to find information about where you can receive the vaccine once you are eligible.

If you have additional questions or can use assistance navigating this process, please do not hesitate to contact **Pastor Nathan** at nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101.

Updated Holy Week and Easter Sunday Worship Schedule

Worshipping together and walking with Jesus through Holy Week and into Easter is an essential part of the rhythm of our Christian life. Beginning with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, we remain with him through the final week of his life: sharing Communion in the upper room on Maundy Thursday, standing at the foot of the cross on Good Friday, waiting and praying at the tomb on Holy Saturday, and finally opening ourselves to being surprised again at the empty tomb on Easter Sunday. These events and rituals are at the very heart of who we are and what we do.

Although we are still restricted in our ability to gather all together in one place as we would like, we remain connected to one another and to God through our worship and through these rhythms. Please join us in whatever ways you are able and comfortable, and invite others to join us, also:



Palm Sunday (March 28): 11AM worship, online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/live) and in the Sanctuary (limited to 25 households, masks and physical distancing required)



Maundy Thursday (April 1): 7PM worship, online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/live) and in the Sanctuary (limited to 25 households, masks and physical distancing required)



Good Friday (April 2): two pre-recorded worship services will be available online, any time at or after Noon—
Berea Community Crosswalk and Worship (www.facebook.com/BereaAreaChurches/live)
East Ohio Black Pastors' Fellowship—Seven Last Words of Jesus (www.cotsumc.org/live)



Holy Saturday (April 3): 6PM worship, online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/live) and in the Sanctuary (limited to 25 households, masks and physical distancing required)

Easter Vigil (April 3 - April 4): wait and pray in the Sanctuary from 7PM on Saturday until 7AM on Sunday—sign up for a half-hour time slot at <http://www.umcb.org/worshipresources/>.



Easter Sunday (April 4):
7AM Sunrise Service on the north lawn (masks and physical distancing required; bring a lawn chair and join us at the north end of the building as we welcome the Risen Christ along with the rising sun)
11AM worship, online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/live) and in the Sanctuary (limited to 25 households, masks and physical distancing required; pre-registration required—sign up by March 31 at <http://www.umcb.org/worshipresources/>).