



Worship Celebration

THIRD SUNDAY
in
LENT

March 7, 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

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayer

*God of amazing love, we are called into worship by Christ, gathered together as one.
Transform our lives during this season of Lent by the clarity of your call
that we might worship and follow you in spirit and in truth.*

*When we set up barriers that prevent others from knowing the truth of your love,
forgive us and break down those walls.*

*When we set up barriers in our own minds and lives that keep us from sharing in your love,
break down our walls with your grace.*

Day by day, draw us closer to you and closer to one another,

setting our feet on the firm foundation of your expansive love. Amen.

Hymn

How Firm a Foundation

UMH 529

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

*"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.*

*"When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of woe will not thee overflow;
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.*

*"When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie, my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design thy dross to consume, and they gold to refine.*

*"The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose, I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."*

Public Domain

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

First Lesson—Exodus 20.1-17 (CEB)

¹ Then God spoke all these words:

² I am the LORD your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

³ You must have no other gods before me.

⁴ Do not make an idol for yourself—no form whatsoever—of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. ⁵ Do not bow down to them or worship them, because I, the LORD your God, am a passionate God. I punish children for their parents' sins even to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me. ⁶ But I am loyal and gracious to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ Do not use the LORD your God's name as if it were of no significance; the LORD won't forgive anyone who uses his name that way.

⁸ Remember the Sabbath day and treat it as holy. ⁹ Six days you may work and do all your tasks, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. Do not do any work on it—not you, your sons or daughters, your male or female servants, your animals, or the immigrant who is living with you. ¹¹ Because the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them in six days, but rested on the seventh day. That is why the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² Honor your father and your mother so that your life will be long on the fertile land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ Do not kill.

¹⁴ Do not commit adultery.

¹⁵ Do not steal.

¹⁶ Do not testify falsely against your neighbor.

¹⁷ Do not desire and try to take your neighbor's house. Do not desire and try to take your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox, donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Lesson—John 2.13-22 (CEB)

¹³ It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ He found in the temple those who were selling cattle, sheep, and doves, as well as those involved in exchanging currency sitting there. ¹⁵ He made a whip from ropes and chased them all out of the temple, including the cattle and the sheep. He scattered the coins and overturned the tables of those who exchanged currency. ¹⁶ He said to the dove sellers, "Get these things out of here! Don't make my Father's house a place of business." ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written, *Passion for your house consumes me.*

¹⁸ Then the Jewish leaders asked him, "By what authority are you doing these things? What miraculous sign will you show us?"

¹⁹ Jesus answered, "Destroy this temple and in three days I'll raise it up."

²⁰ The Jewish leaders replied, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and you will raise it up in three days?" ²¹ But the temple Jesus was talking about was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered what he had said, and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

Prayers of the People

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.

***Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.***

***Come to the table of peace. Come to the table of peace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of peace.***

***Come to the table of love. Come to the table of love.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of love.***

***Come to the table of joy. Come to the table of joy.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of joy.***

*Come to the Table of Grace / Barbara Hamm / 2008 Hope Publishing Company
Used by permission. One License, A-737772*

The Great Thanksgiving

In these extraordinary circumstances, you are invited this morning to have prepared Communion elements or a simple piece of bread ready to receive as we participate together in the holy mystery of Communion, even while we remain physically apart. We will receive the elements at the same time, though not in the same place, trusting that through the presence of the Holy Spirit, our sharing is sacramental as our spirits interact with God's and with one another's. If the risen Christ really is present in all times and places, then surely Christ really is present among us even now. There is no substitute for gathering together in person; however, through God's grace, we trust that we still are held in communion with God and with one another.

Lifting our hearts to God as one, in a spirit of thanksgiving and joy, let us pray:

Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth, you bring all things into being and call them good.
From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turn away, and our love fails, your love remains steadfast, calling us back to life.
When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and nights, you remembered your love for us
and made covenant with every living creature and with the earth.
When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and nights,
you gave us your commandments and called us to live as your covenant people.
When we forsake your covenant, your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and nights;
and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice.
And so, with your people on earth and all the communion of your creation,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.***

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Word in Jesus Christ,
whom the Spirit sent into the wilderness for forty days and nights
in preparation for his ministry.

When he suffered and died on the cross of our violence,
you overcame our violence, raising him to life,
and presenting him alive to the apostles for forty days and nights.

By your love and Jesus' life, you have broken down the walls that would divide us,
giving birth to your church, delivering us from slavery to sin and death,
and making with us a new covenant by water and your Spirit.

Now, as we your people prepare for the annual feast of Easter,
you lead us to change our hearts and lives,
that during these forty days and nights of Lent, we may be gifted and graced anew
to reaffirm the covenant you make with us through Christ.

On the night in which he gave himself for us, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke the bread, gave it to the disciples, and said:
“Receive, eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.”

When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, again gave thanks, shared it, and said:
“Drink from this, all of you; this is the cup of the new covenant
shared for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this, as often as you drink it, to remember me.”

And so, in remembrance of all you have done to save us and make us whole,
we offer ourselves now in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on each of us and on our gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may answer your call to be the body of Christ for the world,
redeemed by your enduring love.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final glory and we feast together at your open table.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory are yours, almighty God, now and forever. ***Amen.***

In collective longing for a taste of your beloved community here among us,
let us join now together in the prayer Jesus taught us to live and to say:

The Lord’s Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Hymn

Communion

Come, hedge me in. Oh God, that you’d know me, a garden enclosed, I’ll be your friend.

Say it again. Come, lavish love on me, ‘til I am convinced of who you say I am.

More and more and more, ‘til we are one, ‘til we are one.

More and more and more, ‘til we are one, ‘til we are one.

I was made for communion. I was made to walk the garden with you.

I was made for communion. I was made to walk the garden with you.

Oh, to be with you where you are. Oh, to be with you where you are.

More and more and more, ‘til we are one, ‘til we are one.

More and more and more, ‘til we are one, ‘til we are one.

Communion / Bryan McCleery / 2019 McCleery MSC / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566

Prayer following Communion

***Lord of this feast beyond measure and price,
we thank you for meeting us in our brokenness
so that none may be lost or shut out.***

***Liberate us now to share bread with our neighbors,
each receiving from the other what we need
to become more fully your beloved children.***

Amen.

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

Christ Has Broken Down the Wall

WS 3122

*Christ has broken down the wall, Christ has broken down the wall.
Let us join our hearts as one, Christ has broken down the wall.*

*We're accepted as we are, we're accepted as we are.
Through God's love all is reconciled, we're accepted as we are.*

*Cast aside your doubts and fears, cast aside your doubts and fears.
Peace and love, freely offered here; cast aside your doubts and fears.*

*We will tear down the walls! We will tear down every wall!
God has called us, one and all; Christ has broken down the wall!*

*Christ Has Broken Down the Wall / Mark A. Miller / 2011 Choristers Guild
Used by permission. One License, A-737772*

Benediction

Blessed by God's wisdom, let us go forth refreshed and renewed.

Called by Christ, let us go now to serve.

Amazed by God's love, let us go now to love.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

***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*

Lucy Hoy, *Piano*

Video Production

Mark Williams

Morning Prayer

God of heaven and earth,
I listen this morning for the sounds of your glory:
in the songs of birds,
in quiet conversations beginning the day,
in sunlight's warmth,
in pattering rain or nearly silent snowfall.
Give me ears to hear your glory in its many forms.
Give me eyes to see your glory in its many faces.
May I be part of the chorus of praise
that stretches to the ends of the earth. Amen.

Evening Prayer

God of freedom,
I thank you for claiming me as your own
and for setting me in the midst of a community.
Today, I have struggled to live before you
and my neighbors
in faithfulness, generosity, and love.
As the day comes to an end,
I pray for forgiveness for myself
and for this weary world,
confident of your grace and mercy.
Send your gift of Sabbath rest. Amen.

*Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion.
Copyright 2013.*

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.

****Update** - While working from home, the church office manager, Beth can be reached by email (ebarner@umcb.org), by leaving a voicemail on the church office phone (440-234-3525 x100) or by calling 440-710-4498. Voicemails left at either number 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.



Reverse Egg Hunt

Palm Sunday, March 28 (Rain Date - Saturday, April 3)

This year, the kids come to your yard! Yes, it's true! Participating church members who sign up as a "hunting yard" will receive eggs to hide (or a youth can hide them for you), already stuffed with goodies. Then we send your address to just one family who will come to find eggs in your yard. All you have to do is watch and enjoy! Snap a picture of the fun so we can all enjoy later!

We have kids waiting for yard assignments!
Please sign up ASAP by contacting **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x 105).

If you've got little bunnies wanting to hunt for eggs, please contact **Pastor Carrie** (see above for contact info) to receive an address to find your treats!

Sign up by **March 15** please.

Thanks for making this a special season for our community kids!

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 March 4, Ohioans age 60 and over are eligible. Cuyahoga County residents seeking information about how and where to receive the vaccine are encouraged to visit <https://cuyahogacounty.us/vax> or www.ccbh.net/covid-19-phase-1b-provider-list or to call 2-1-1 (United Way's 211 HelpLink) on weekdays between 8AM and 4PM.

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.



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!



Read and Grow Book Discussion Group

Monday, March 8, 6:30 - 8PM, via Zoom

Join us on Monday, March 8 to discuss **The Bluest Eye** by Toni Morrison .

Nine-year-old Claudia and ten-year-old Frieda MacTeer live in Lorain, Ohio, with their parents. It is the end of the Great Depression, and the girls' parents are more concerned with making ends meet than with lavishing attention upon their daughters, but there is an undercurrent of love and stability in their home. The MacTeers take in a boarder, Henry Washington, and also a young girl named Pecola who thinks she is ugly. Pecola equates beauty and social acceptance with whiteness, so she longs to have “the bluest eye.”

Online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81259288501>

By phone: 1-888-788-0099, Meeting ID: 812 5928 8501

If you have questions, please call **Janet Mallarnee** at 440-235-7331, **Betsy Meikle** at 440-243-5767, or **Jan Harlamert** at 440-243-7126.



Women's Bible Study

Thursdays, 6:30 PM, via Zoom

Come join us for the Women's Bible Study on Thursday evenings. We will continue our study of **Fierce Hearted** by Holley Gerth. *“This will take us to new levels with the Lord as we learn to embrace the unique kind of bravery He has placed inside of us”.*

For more information, please contact Mary Lynn Swartz at 440-409-5931 or marylynn482@gmail.com.



GriefShare Welcomes New Participants

Tuesdays via Zoom

For more information, please contact Mary Lynn Swartz at 440-409-5931 or marylynn482@gmail.com.



Equal Exchange Available

The First Wednesday of each month , 6:30-7:15PM, In the Church Vestibule

Warm up on these chilly days with Equal Exchange coffee or tea.

Equal Exchange items will be available for purchase on the first Wednesday of each month in the church vestibule from 6:30-7:15PM.

Unable to come to the church? Contact the **church office** at info@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x100** and it may be possible to make other arrangements.



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.



Virtual Mission Trip to UMCOR Sager Brown

Wednesday, March 17, 2:30PM, via Zoom

One of our significant and long-standing mission partnerships has been with the UMCOR Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana, where we have been sending mission teams every spring. Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, UMCOR Sager Brown has been unable to host volunteers on campus since mid-March 2020. However, there still are opportunities for us to stay connected with the mission and ministry of Sager Brown through a "virtual mission trip" via Zoom. Whether or not you have traveled previously with one of our teams, you are invited to join a Zoom meeting hosted by our partners at Sager Brown. This two-hour meeting is intended as an introduction to the Sager Brown campus and ministry as well as an opportunity to continue our support of this important work.

For more information, including the Zoom link to join the March 17 meeting, please email **Pastor Nathan** (nhowe@umcb.org).



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. February's selected mission is Berea Community Outreach.

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".

**REMEMBER OR HONOR A LOVED ONE
BY SUPPORTING OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS IN MISSION THIS EASTER.**

This Easter we are inviting you to give missionally, in lieu of flowers. There will still be some lovely flowers in our worship space, but we'd also like to fill it with symbolic new life in the form of seed paper butterflies. Each butterfly will represent a donation made in memory or honor of a person of your naming. The funds donated will support the important ministry of our global partners in mission.

Cambodia - *The United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries in Cambodia is launching a new ministry in 2021 called the "Shine Project." This ministry will provide vocational training for young women, ages 16-25, who are unable to attend university due to a lack of money. Through the Shine Project, participants will receive training and licensure in trades such as cooking and cosmetology, opening avenues to economic empowerment.*

Guatemala - *Our Guatemalan mission supports women who live in the mountains and have little access to paid work. We help the women create small businesses. Most businesses are a single farm animal, most commonly, cattle. The women strive to produce the healthiest animals possible, including the construction of shelters to protect them. Our church funds the concrete for the floors. The women and their families provide the roofing and other materials. Our church and the women each contribute something different but "it is the same God at work." I Corinthians 12:6c (NIV).*

Use this attached form to request a butterfly by March 20, 2021. Mail donations or donate online at www.umcb.org/donate with the memo "butterfly". A full list of those remembered or honored will be included in the Easter bulletin as well as the May Caller.

After Easter, we invite you to come "pluck" a butterfly from our display or request it be mailed to you. You can then plant your butterfly to enjoy lovely spring flowers. (Directions will be included for planting.)

As the Easter message spreads throughout the earth anew this year,
we pray to send our blessings on "wings" as well.

Butterfly Request Form

All forms and payments are due to the church office by March 20, 2021.

If donating online, please put the amount in the "other" category and specify "butterfly" as the description.

If mailing a check to the church office, please write "butterfly" on the memo line.

Name: _____ **Phone or Email:** _____
(in case we have questions)

Donation made in memory of: _____

Donation made in honor of: _____

After Easter, I wish to...

- "pluck" my butterfly from the church display.
- request that my butterfly be mailed to me.

Mailing Address: _____