

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 United Methodist Church of Berea will become a home for you, your family, and your friends as together, in our relationship with God, with each other, and with all creation, **we make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**



AshWednesday

March 2, 2022 + 7 PM

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a forty-day period of fasting, prayer, self-examination, and preparation for the Festival of Easter and for living as Easter people. The imposition of ashes is an ancient sign of repentance—a desire to turn and to change—and serves as a reminder of our mortality. In Genesis 3.19, God says to the first human, “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.” As we are marked with ashes on our foreheads in the same way that we are marked with the cross at our baptism, we are reminded again that in life, in death, and in life beyond death, we belong to God.

We Gather as God’s Children

Prelude

Improvisation on *Dona Nobis Pacem*

Call to Worship

Grace and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

The Lord will guide you continually and provide for you, even in parched places.

Thanks be to God.

Invitation to Lenten Discipline

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ:

the early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord’s passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation.

During this season, converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism.

It also was a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church.

In this way, the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and of the need we all have to be renewed in our faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent:

by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s Holy Word.

To make a right beginning of repentance, and reminded of our mortality, let us be centered in the presence of our Creator and Redeemer.

Hymn

In God Alone

***In God alone my soul can find rest and peace, in God my peace and joy.
Only in God my soul can find its rest, find its rest and peace.***

Text: Based on Psalm 62.1, Tune: Jacques Berthier / © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé (France), admin by GIA Publications, Inc. /
Used with Permission. One License # A737772. All Rights Reserved.

Prayer of Confession

Come, Holy Spirit, come, and help us find our rest in you.

As we begin this season of Lent, may we step out of the fast-moving current of daily life.

Throughout this holy journey, may we choose stillness over busyness;

may we strive to listen more than we speak.

Help us to slow our pace and quiet our minds, that our spirits may draw closer to you.

Gracious God, our faith in you requires care, time, and attention.

Yet we turn our attention toward other interests, ambitions, and concerns.

Call us once again to return to you with all our hearts.

Open our eyes to see injustice in our world.

Give us courage to resist the powers that oppress our neighbors.

Open our ears to hear the cry of the needy.

Teach us generosity to share the abundance of your creation.

Open our minds to imagine an end to human conflict.

Grant us wisdom to pursue your paths of peace.

Open our hearts to love both friends and enemies, near and far.

Give us desire to embody the compassion of Christ.

(silent prayers of confession)

For the sake of the world, in the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Hymn

Come and Fill Our Hearts

TFWS 2157

***Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Alleluia!***

Text & Tune: Jacques Berthier (Ps. 137)/ © 1982, 1991, 2011 Les Presses de Taizé (France), admin by GIA Publications, Inc. /
Used with Permission. One License # A737772. All Rights Reserved.

We Grow in God's Word

First Lesson—Isaiah 58.1-12 (CEB)

58 Shout loudly; don't hold back;

raise your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their crime,

to the house of Jacob their sins.

² They seek me day after day,

desiring knowledge of my ways

like a nation that acted righteously,

that didn't abandon their God.

They ask me for righteous judgments,

wanting to be close to God.

³ "Why do we fast and you don't see;

why afflict ourselves and you don't notice?"

Yet on your fast day you do whatever you want,

and oppress all your workers.

⁴You quarrel and brawl, and then you fast;
 you hit each other violently with your fists.
 You shouldn't fast as you are doing today
 if you want to make your voice heard on high.

⁵Is this the kind of fast I choose,
 a day of self-affliction,
 of bending one's head like a reed
 and of lying down in mourning clothing and ashes?
 Is this what you call a fast,
 a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Isn't this the fast I choose:
 releasing wicked restraints, untying the ropes of a yoke,
 setting free the mistreated,
 and breaking every yoke?

⁷Isn't it sharing your bread with the hungry
 and bringing the homeless poor into your house,
 covering the naked when you see them,
 and not hiding from your own family?

⁸Then your light will break out like the dawn,
 and you will be healed quickly.
 Your own righteousness will walk before you,
 and the LORD's glory will be your rear guard.

⁹Then you will call, and the LORD will answer;
 you will cry for help, and God will say, "I'm here."
 If you remove the yoke from among you,
 the finger-pointing, the wicked speech;

¹⁰ if you open your heart to the hungry,
 and provide abundantly for those who are afflicted,
 your light will shine in the darkness,
 and your gloom will be like the noon.

¹¹The LORD will guide you continually
 and provide for you, even in parched places.
 He will rescue your bones.
 You will be like a watered garden,
 like a spring of water that won't run dry.

¹²They will rebuild ancient ruins on your account;
 the foundations of generations past you will restore.
 You will be called Mender of Broken Walls,
 Restorer of Livable Streets.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Silent Reflection

Second Lesson—Matthew 6.1-21 (NRSV)

⁶ "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁷“When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹“Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

¹⁰ Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And do not bring us to the time of trial
but rescue us from the evil one.

¹⁴For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; ¹⁵but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Silent Reflection

Meditation

Thanksgiving Over the Ashes and Imposition of Ashes

Hymn

Come and Find the Quiet Center

TFWS 2128

Assurance of Forgiveness and Sharing the Peace of Christ

The Lord is gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

In the name of Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

The peace of Christ be with you. ***And also with you.***

Hymn

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

TFWS 2200

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

Text & Tune: Jacques Berthier (Ps .102.1-2) / © 1982 Les Presses de Taizé (France), admin by GIA Publications, Inc. /
Used with Permission. One License # A737772. All Rights Reserved.

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition and the words, “Lord, in your mercy,” the congregation will please respond together, “Hear our prayer.”

Invitation to Give our Tithes and Offerings

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts. *We lift them up to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, O God of many names.

You bring all things into being and call them good.

From the dust of the earth you form us in your image and breathe into us the breath of life.

When we turn away and our love fails, your love remains steadfast.

And so, with your people on earth and all the communion of your saints, 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 made flesh in Jesus Christ.

Through Jesus' self-giving love, you raise him to new life.

Now, as we your people begin our preparations for the Great Festival of Easter,

you lead us first into repentance for the renewal of our hearts,

that during these forty days of Lent, we may be gifted and graced

to reaffirm the covenant you make with us through Christ.

On the night we betrayed him, Jesus gathered with us, took bread,

gave thanks to you, broke the bread, and shared it, saying:

"Receive, eat; this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, again gave thanks to you, shared it, and said:

"Receive, drink; this is the new covenant for you and for all.

Do this in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these and all your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,

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 us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,

that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by your love.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other,

and one in mission and ministry to all the world,

until Christ comes in final glory, and we feast together at your table forever.

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.*

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup
Hymn

Eat This Bread

UMH 628

***Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.***

Text: Robert Batastini and the TaizéCommunity (Jn. 6.35), Tune: Jacques Berthier /
© 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (France), admin by GIA Publications, Inc. /
Used with Permission. One License # A737772. All Rights Reserved.

Prayer following Communion

***Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.***

***Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.***

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

Stay with Us

***Stay with us, O Lord Jesus Christ, night soon will fall.
Then stay with us, O Lord Jesus Christ, light in our darkness.***

Text: the TaizéCommunity (lk. 24, ps. 26, ps. 138), Tune: Jacques Berthier /
© 1982, 1983, 1984, 1991 Les Presses de Taizé (France), admin by GIA Publications, Inc. /
Used with Permission. One License # A737772. All Rights Reserved.

Benediction

May God who forgives us encourage us in the days ahead.

May Christ who leads us find us faithful in our following.

May the Spirit who drives us into the wilderness lead us more fully into life.

Go in peace, reconciling with God and with one another. ***Thanks be to God.***

Postlude

Jesus Loves Me

arr. Robert Hobby

(from **For All the Saints Vol. 2**)

***Our service of worship is ended.
Our worship through service now begins.***

Join us in worship, this week and every week:

Sunday at 9AM in-person in the Sanctuary and online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/live)

Sunday at 11AM in-person in Wesley Hall

Monday—Friday at 9AM (Morning Prayer) via Zoom
(1-888-788-0099, meeting id: 518 014 483; passcode: 170)

In accordance with CDC guidelines and our county's current "substantial" transmission risk, we require that all persons, regardless of vaccination status, wear face masks throughout their time in our building.