

LARGE PRINT

Worship Celebration

Third Sunday in Lent

March 3, 2024 + 9 AM

Back to Basics

God's Forgiveness



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.**

We Gather as God's Children

Words of Welcome

Opportunities for Ministry

Prelude

And Can It Be

Thomas Campbell
arr. Josh Kraybill

+ Call to Worship

Lenten travelers, why are you here?

We gather to do the work of worship.

Lenten travelers, what happens when we gather to worship?

We listen and proclaim.

We sing and pray.

We repent and encourage.

Lenten travelers, how do we do the work of worship?

We bring all that we are to be present to God and one another.

Lenten travelers, what work does God do in worship?

***God raises us up so that we can delight in life together
with God and one another.***

Lenten travelers, come, let us worship God together!

Come, let us worship God together! Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, reprinted by permission of www.umcdiscipleship.org, October 2023.

+ Hymn

And Can It Be that I Should Gain

UMH 363

Prayers of the People (Seeking & Offering Peace)

Music of Meditation & Reflection

Rock of Ages (New City Fellowship)

James Ward

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.*

First Lesson - 1 Corinthians 1.18-25 (NRSVUE)

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson - Matthew 26.26-30 (NRSVUE)

²⁶While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” ²⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you, ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.”

³⁰When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon - *God's Forgiveness (It's for all of us)*

Rev. Carrie Antczak

Time of Silent Confession & Words of Assurance

***May I dig deeper, into the purposes of God, into the ways of God,
Into the places that need healing,
Into the relationships that need strengthening,
May I dig deeper,
into the roots of my being,
into the place where God dwells,
into the place where wholeness resides.***

In God's beautiful mercy, we are forgiven and made whole.

Source: Christine Sine, reprinted by permission of <https://godspacelight.com/>

Invitation to Give Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

In Christ Alone

Keith & Kristyn Getty

The Great Thanksgiving

The Holy One be with you

And also with you

Open your hearts to the One who is Love

We open our hearts to you, O God

Let us give thanks to God, who gathers us together

***To the One who welcomes us to the table,
we give thanks and praise.***

God, your invitation to come and feast in your presence is but a taste of the love you extend to us every day. By your very nature, you are always seeking us out – searching for ways to connect us and connect with us. You meet us in the most ordinary of places and you make them sacred. By your grace, we come to recognize the holiness that dwells in the world around us, in our neighbors, in our own internal depths.

Therefore we join our voices with your people on earth and all the company of the heavens, singing praise to you

Holy, Holy, Holy One

God of justice and love

Heaven and earth are full of your wonder

Hosanna, among us

Blessed are you and blessed is your eternal table. You welcome all who thirst for justice and hunger to grow in love. You ask us to extend this same welcome to all our neighbors, but God, since our beginning, we have struggled.

And so in your love for us, you took on flesh in Jesus. Through his life, you pointed to your presence on the margins. You revealed the sacredness in all life. You showed us how to live together, you showed us the power and grace that comes with forgiveness.

Believing it could transform the world, Jesus proclaimed the Good News. He called for the captives to be set free. He spoke of the lowly being lifted up. He talked of redistributing wealth and eradicating the causes of poverty. His commitment to practicing love knew no bounds – not even the bounds of death.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus shared a meal with his companions. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said:

“This is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

After the meal, he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it saying:
“This cup that is poured out is the new covenant.”

In remembrance of all you have done to save us,
we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ was birthed among us.

Christ was killed among us.

Christ rises again among us.

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts, O God. Make these ordinary elements into the Sacred gift of your presence with us once again. May they awaken us anew to your everlasting invitation into a life of resurrection. Aliven us in our pursuit of a world where all needs are met, power is balanced, and the worth of every creature and creation is celebrated.

In collective longing for a taste of your Kindom on earth, we join together in echoing the prayer of Jesus:

The Lord’s Prayer

Sharing bread and cup:

Hymn *Softly and Tenderly* UMH 348

Hymn *Let us Break Bread Together* UMH 618

Prayer after Communion:

***God, by the bread of heaven and the cup of life,
you make us one body.***

Bind us together by your spirit

***that we might live into your hopes for us,
a community centered in Christ***

and rich in compassion, commitment, courage, and care.

May it be so. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

+ Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

UMH 121

+ **Benediction**

Beloved, may you go from this place of worship, forgiven.

*May you know that God's love for you is not fragile,
it will hold on to you.*

And in that love, may you go to live life to the fullest,

With this first hint of Easter Joy.

Amen.

Written by Rev. Carrie Antczak

Postlude - *God of Grace and God of Glory*

arr. Paul Manz

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

Prayer of the Day: Lenten Prayer (*inspired by John 2:13-22*)

Holy God, in Jesus Christ you have built for us
an eternal house, a temple of righteousness,
a place of gracious plenty for the hungry
and abundant life for the poor in spirit.
Fill us with zeal for the body of Christ.
Overturn the tables of corruption and greed
and upset the imbalance of injustice,
so that we may worship you in spirit and truth;
through Jesus Christ, who is risen indeed.

*Posted on the **Presbyterian Church USA** website, <http://www.pcusa.org/>.*

Re-posted on the re:Worship blog,

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/02/prayer-for-lent-3-b.html>.

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ENGAGE OUR FAITH

(A MID-WEEK SERVICE OF REFLECTION & RESET)

Wednesdays Beginning February 21, 7 PM, The Chapel

During this season of Lent, we will offer a regular Wednesday night service as a way to reflect, reset, and stay engaged in our walk with Christ.

The service will vary each week with offerings of communion, group engagement, moments of reflection, times of prayer, as well as other spiritual practices and moments.

