

February 2024 Worship Guide

CHERRYVALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 709 CHERRY HILL DR, STAUNTON VA - 540 885 0098

This booklet contains the outline for each worship service during the month of February 2024.

As of the time of going to print, Sunday worship is in person, online and broadcast on the radio (you can listen in your car on FM 87.9, in the church parking lot). If you are not able to attend in person, you can watch online on our website and YouTube channel. Even if we are not worshipping in the same building, we are still one body, one family, we are brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Look up the scriptures referenced in the following pages; pray the words, and claim the promises for you and your family. - Pastor Jonathan

What is Lent, and Why Does it Last 40 Days?

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten, meaning “lengthen” and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter." This is why you will see the designation "Sunday in Lent" rather than "Sunday of Lent" in the naming of these Sundays. On each Lord's Day in Lent, while Lenten fasts continue, the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

Why Give Up Things for Lent.

Ah. The time of year when we, Christians, conveniently rely on our faith to help us stick to our diets! While that was typed tongue-in-cheek, we sometimes make too much light of the Lenten Season, especially when it comes to figuring out what we should give up. Some people treat the 40 days as a quick diet scheme: No carbs or no caffeine or no sugar or no chocolate— which is good and all, but sometimes we say we’re giving up those things without any rhyme, reason, purpose or intention.

We give up things during the Lent season to remind ourselves of the suffering and pain that we know Jesus will experience at the end of the season. We also give up things to be reminded of our dependence on God. Caffeine shouldn’t be the thing that compels us to live. God’s love and grace is what should compel us to live and love. Giving up coffee is not trivial at all. When that dull headache starts rolling in, we reflect on our mortality, our weakness, and our dependence on coffee which should remind us of God’s mercy and grace and presence.

Lent can also be understood as some sort of house cleaning. Just like how we may clean our house in preparation for a guest, we take time to examine our lives and in clean our hearts to prepare to encounter the Risen Christ at Easter. So we clean out the things that hinder our relationships with God and with others.

The main purpose of “giving up” things in Lent is to bring us closer to God; to prioritize God; to put God in the center of our minds and lives; to make God the focal point.

So if you’re thinking about giving up chocolate — do it! But also ask yourself “how will that bring me closer to God?” One way it could bring you closer to God is that every time you start craving for chocolate, you take that as a cue to be in prayer; to confess your weakness, to confess your need for God’s grace, to be reminded that God is with you and that God has always been with you. May this Lenten season bring you ever so closer to God.

February Worship

February 4, 2024

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Isa 40:21-31; Ps 147:1-20; 1 Cor 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Call to Worship

Praise the LORD! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names. Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. The LORD lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground. Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the harp. He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills. He gives to the animals their food, and to the young ravens when they cry. His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner; but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love. Praise the LORD!

Prayer of Confession

Lord, today we confess that we often live as those who have never heard of you. We plan and strategize as though the outcome depended solely upon us. We worry and fret like those who have no advocate. Forgive us Lord, for the scheming and conniving we do to make sure that we have our own way. Forgive us Lord, for grasping at power when you are the Power, for seeking glory when all glory belongs to you, for not leaning upon you when we feel weak, or powerless or alone. Forgive us Lord, for relying upon ourselves and other mortals when we should turn to you. Teach us how to live more like those who belong to you and less like those who belong to the world.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty and Everlasting God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. You alone can banish all affliction both of soul and of body. Show forth your power upon those in need, that by your mercy, they may be restored to serve you anew in holiness of living. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, offering healing in your name. Through the one who breathes new life into us, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

February 11, 2024 - Transfiguration Sunday

Scriptures to read and meditate on

2 Kings 2:1-12; Ps 50:1-6; 2 Cor 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

Call to Worship

The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth. Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around him. He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people: "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!" The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge.

Prayer of Confession

We sing our alleluia on our mountain tops but fail to be an alleluia for others in the valley. We praise you with our lips but fail to live as you taught us. Forgive us. Lord, as your Son was transfigured on the mountain top, transfigure our hearts and lives, so that we may live according to your Word, as we listen to him. Mold us and shape us into the image of Christ, so that our alleluia's may flow from the mountain tops into the valleys of despair and brokenness.

Prayer of Thanksgiving - Burying the Alleluia

When Jesus came down from the mount of Transfiguration, he began to tell his disciples that he would be betrayed and crucified. SOMETIMES WE LOSE OUR ALLELUIA. Jesus did not enter into glory before he stretched out his arms on the hardwood of the cross. SOMETIMES WE LOSE OUR ALLELUIA. Jesus told his disciples, "If you want to become my followers, deny yourselves and take up your cross and follow me." SOMETIMES WE MUST LET GO OF OUR ALLELUIA. At Easter we will again celebrate the Resurrection and sing "Christ is risen." IN GOD'S TIME, WE WILL FIND OUR ALLELUIA! For the days of Lent, we discontinue singing and saying, "Alleluia." SOMETIMES WE LET GO OF OUR ALLELUIA.

February Worship

February 18, 2024

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Gen 9:8-17; Ps 25:1-10; 1 Pet 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

Call to Worship

God of storms and rainbows, God of rain and sunshine. God of all creation we worship and adore you. We gaze in wonder at the beauty of your creation and marvel at stormy skies transformed with the vibrant colors of a rainbow. Like Noah and his family, we praise you for this everlasting sign of your love and care for the whole creation in your desire to preserve and not destroy life. And at Jesus' baptism, the sky again revealed your love when you identified him as your beloved Son, strengthening him with the same Spirit who empowers and strengthens each of us. For all these assurances of your love for us and for the whole creation: God of all creation we worship and adore you.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your judgment. For our sake, and the sake of your son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways that lead to glory.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Righteous God, we mark these early days in the Lenten journey with reminders of your covenant with your people. In your judgement, you sent upon creation the great flood – yet you saved a faithful remnant. You followed with a covenant not to use the flood again. As we offer our gifts to you, we are reminded that we have been spared from judgment by the one, your son, our Savior, who took on our guilt and bore our judgement. May gratitude for his sacrifice move us to offer not only money, but our whole being. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

February 25, 2024

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Gen 17:1-7, 15-16; Ps 22:23-31; Rom 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord, all you who fear him! Honor him, all you descendants of Jacob! Show him reverence, all you descendants of Israel! For he has not ignored or belittled the suffering of the needy. He has not turned his back on them, but has listened to their cries for help. I will praise you in the great assembly. I will fulfill my vows in the presence of those who worship you. The poor will eat and be satisfied. All who seek the Lord will praise him. Their hearts will rejoice with everlasting joy. The whole earth will acknowledge the Lord and return to him. All the families of the nations will bow down before him. For royal power belongs to the Lord. He rules all the nations. I will praise you in the great assembly. I will fulfill my vows in the presence of those who worship you.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you reached into Abraham and Sarah's lives and asked them to dream the impossible dream, that you would transform what appears to have been a barren and lifeless situation into one overflowing with promise and hope. Through faith in you, they believed your promises. Forgive us, O God, if we never get beyond thinking of your call on our lives as an impossible dream or even as an unwelcome interruption. Faithful God, the apostle Paul emphasizes Abraham's complete trust and faith in your promises and how he grew ever stronger in faith, fully convinced of your ability to fulfil what had been promised. Forgive us, O God, when we find it hard even to hear your promises above commercial assurances of transformation, promises tempting us to trust the newest and trendiest product to realize our dreams. Merciful God, Jesus revealed the great depth of your love in his determination to defeat evil even when this meant giving up his own life. Forgive us, O God, when we allow the power of evil to flourish because we fear that taking up one's cross would be just too costly an exercise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of all, you love us and have claimed us. As you blessed Sarah and Abraham, you have invited us into the blessing of connection within the family of humanity whom you continue to bless. We give our tithes and offerings in celebration of the depths of our blessing and pray that they will strengthen the church across the world to bless all your children. In the holy name of Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, we pray in gratitude. Amen.

Leap Year Word Search



Twenty Nine

Four Years

Leap Year

Leap Day

February

Calendar

Seasons

Tropical

Rotate

Spring

Julian

Lunar

Orbit

Earth

Frog

Sun

N	A	X	N	M	M	V	T	Z	R	G	V	K	S	O	Z
A	K	X	Z	Y	L	F	L	E	N	Y	C	H	Z	W	Q
E	N	I	N	Y	T	N	E	W	T	G	A	A	U	W	O
G	V	O	X	N	J	O	A	B	A	V	P	W	A	Y	T
B	G	I	F	X	L	Q	P	B	Q	M	U	S	Y	C	D
G	F	V	F	R	O	G	Y	J	B	Q	Q	Q	S	V	X
X	J	F	F	B	R	K	E	H	X	B	L	Q	I	B	X
G	N	F	M	E	B	P	A	H	L	G	U	T	L	S	X
S	U	U	O	J	I	V	R	F	H	B	J	P	C	M	N
E	E	M	M	U	T	S	K	F	B	Z	A	Z	U	Q	B
H	I	A	S	P	R	I	N	G	J	E	U	T	J	E	O
H	T	V	S	J	U	Y	Q	C	H	U	Y	M	J	E	X
P	Q	R	K	O	N	F	E	A	A	H	L	X	H	Z	I
U	W	R	A	D	N	E	L	A	C	E	A	I	H	T	J
H	D	J	E	E	T	S	E	U	R	W	M	K	A	Z	Q
T	I	L	V	U	F	P	V	T	J	S	E	R	F	N	X
R	R	W	W	Z	G	E	H	R	A	M	P	M	P	F	N
O	X	M	I	Y	K	Z	B	J	A	T	U	G	K	D	K
P	F	D	G	A	E	E	R	R	T	N	O	P	X	M	I
I	O	O	Y	W	O	Y	P	S	U	N	U	R	N	G	M
C	C	N	M	G	C	Y	A	D	P	A	E	L	X	K	N
A	Z	R	G	S	O	S	F	A	P	X	R	A	P	M	R
L	J	F	Z	H	K	X	I	B	X	X	U	Y	W	S	M
I	Q	K	K	Q	V	O	V	T	I	T	K	F	G	W	L
F	W	L	I	W	O	I	Z	B	X	P	Z	M	G	E	Q
S	Z	M	J	W	P	R	V	L	T	P	B	W	N	E	D
E	C	F	E	T	N	I	A	F	U	V	I	Y	A	G	Y
U	F	N	Z	V	N	C	C	B	M	T	F	J	Z	D	D
M	S	A	H	V	F	W	T	P	E	V	U	R	P	V	K
A	R	Q	W	P	Q	F	A	C	V	I	I	H	F	N	P