

March 2022 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 March 2022.

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

March 2, 2022 sees the beginning of the Lenten season in the church, with Ash Wednesday. So 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.

The Bible has much to say about fasting. Fasting is a sign of penitence practiced by individuals or whole people in the Old Testament. Jesus, as part of his spiritual preparation, went into the wilderness and fasted 40 days and 40 nights. He also commended fasting as an ongoing practice for his disciples in the Sermon on the Mount.

While fasting is often associated with Lent, Methodists have never limited fasting to Lent. The General Rules commend "fasting or abstinence" as part of the ordinances of God upon which all Methodists are called to attend as they are able. Fasting usually means eating no food for a period of time. Abstinence means refraining from particular kinds of food, such as meat.

John Wesley fasted weekly, from Thursday at sundown until receiving communion on Sunday, as the Church of England expected its clergy to do. To Wesley, fasting or abstinence were ways to express sorrow for sin and penitence for overindulgence in eating and drinking. He commended fasting to all Methodists to allow more time for prayer, and he noted that fasting or abstinence was more meaningful when combined with giving to the poor. At the same time, he advised caution against extreme fasting and urged those in fragile health not to fast from food.

The United Methodist Church does not have official guidance on how individuals should observe fasting or abstinence. Many choose to fast from food, but fasting or abstinence can include restriction of activities such as television watching, shopping, or social networking. Some choose to give away clothing or possessions, give time by volunteering, or increase time spent in prayer. Be sure to check with your physician before attempting a total fast (no food, water only) for more than 24 hours.

Whenever or however we fast, United Methodists do so to reorient ourselves away from the compulsions and distractions of our lives to make more room in our lives for the love of God overflowing in love to every neighbor.

In addition to this worship guide, I encourage you to work through the enclosed Lenten Family Devotional Journey. It is my prayer for you, that in your study and devotions you will find a greater and deeper loving relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessings Pastor Jonathan

MARCH WORSHIP

Worship March 2 — Ash Wednesday

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Joel 2: 1,2, 12-17; Psalm 51; 2 Corinthians 5:20 – 6:10

Opening Prayer

O God, maker of everything and judge of all that you have made, from the dust of the earth you have formed us and from the dust of death you would raise us up. By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit, that we may repent of our sins and lead lives worthy of your calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament lesson - Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

1 Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near— 2 a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. 12 Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 13 rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. 14 Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? 15 Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; 16 gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. 17 Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, “Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

New Testament Lesson 2 Corinthians 5:20 – 6:10

20 So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

1 As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 2 For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! 3 We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4 but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5 beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; 6 by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, 7 truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8 in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; 9 as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; 10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have stumbled and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is nothing good in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent; according to Your promises declared unto all people in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of His name. Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God our deliverer, you led your people of old through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide now the people of your church, that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives, and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God now and forever.

MARCH WORSHIP

Worship March 6

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Deut 26:1-11; Rom 10:8b-13; Ps 91:1-2, 9-16; Lk 4:1-13

Call To Worship

The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust." For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame. Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, whose Son was tempted in every way, yet was without sin, we have failed to be obedient to your Word, we have not done your will, and we have broken your law. Most merciful God, we confess before you that we have sinned; we have hungered after that which does not satisfy; we have compromised with evil; we have doubted your power to protect us. Forgive our lack of faith; have mercy on our weakness. Restore in us such love and trust that we may walk in your ways and delight in doing your will.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. Make us hungry for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us always in the way of eternal life. Take our gifts that we offer this morning, to nourish the world with your word. Through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven, we pray. Amen.

Worship March 13

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Gen 15:1-12, 17-18; Ps 27; Phil 3:17-4:1; Lk 13:31-35

Call To Worship

Ashes have been smeared and sins have been confessed. We follow our faithful Lord. These times, they are troubling. This journey, it is hard. We follow our faithful Lord. It is God who sustains, not the temptations of this world We follow our faithful Lord. In the Lord is our trust, our protection from harm. We follow our faithful Lord. Come, let us worship the One whom we serve. We follow our faithful Lord.

Prayer of Confession

O God, whose loving knows no ending, still you long to gather us under your wings. For the words of hatred, we have spoken, and the words of love, we have withheld: O God, forgive us and gather us under your wings of mercy. For the walls we have built up and the barriers we have refused to take down: O God, forgive us and gather us under your wings of mercy. For the greed that makes us frantic and the gifts we pass by without seeing: O God, forgive us and gather us under your wings of mercy. For what we have done and for what we have left undone: O God, forgive us and gather us under your wings of mercy.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Generous God, as we travel this Lenten journey, allow us to walk beside Jesus as he makes his journey into Jerusalem. As we offer our gifts this morning, may it be our way of saying we won't turn away from the problems and conflicts of this world; but like Jesus, we will walk toward them. All we take for the journey is the compassion, mercy, and sacrifice that he carried—moving toward what waited in the Holy City. We journey in Christ's steps and pray in Christ's holy name. Amen.

MARCH WORSHIP

Worship March 20

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Isa 55:1-9; Ps 63:1-8; 1 Cor 10:1-13; Lk 13:1-9

Call To Worship

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name. My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you are the gardener of our lives. You till our soil, you plant the seeds of faith, and then you nourish and sustain our lives so that we may bear fruit. We confess that too often we become like the fig tree that fails to bear fruit. We harbor hate, we live in fear, and we ridicule others. We say we are your disciples but often our lives do not bear the fruit of salvation, or even the fruit of repentance. Lord forgive us. Help us to hear your call in our lives to come home as we repent of our selfish ways and return to your abundant and compassionate love that gently leads us to life.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Patient and merciful God, we bring our offerings humbly on this day, hoping they will bring fruit to the ministry of your church on earth. We ourselves have not always set our priorities on bearing good fruit, and yet you are a patient gardener. You have sent saints into our midst to make the soil richer, yet like the stubborn fig tree, good fruit has been scarce. May our journey this Lenten season feed our spirits to bring forth the fruit you desire. We pray in the name of our savior and redeemer, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Worship March 27

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Josh 5:9-12; Ps 32; 2 Cor 5:16-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11b-32

Call To Worship

Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty! When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the Lord." And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone. Many sorrows come to the wicked, but unfailing love surrounds those who trust the Lord. So rejoice in the Lord and be glad, all you who obey him! Shout for joy, all you whose hearts are pure!

Prayer of Confession

O Gracious God, who knows the deepest places of our hearts, forgive us when we forget we are fearfully and wonderfully made, when we pretend you are not at the end of all of our searching, when we give ourselves over to the "whatever" of our culture. Remind us that your knowledge of us is wondrous and not punitive, and that we are defenseless against your love. Continue to seek us out even as we seek your face.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Long-suffering God, we hear the words of the familiar parable and, at different times, see ourselves as either son. We have received—or demanded—blessings to which we were not entitled and squandered them in self-indulgent living. We have also looked out from our place of superiority and favor and have been indignant over your lavish dispensing of love and mercy. As we bring our gifts this day, we do so in the humble gratitude and recognition that any and all blessings in our life come as your gift of grace. We pray in the name of your greatest gift, Jesus our redeemer. Amen.



Worship Service & Lunch

Staunton Area UM Churches

Wednesdays During Lent

@ 12:00 noon

March 9 - Marquis Memorial: Deb Washer

March 16 - Jollivue: Jesse Moffitt

March 23 - Augusta Street: Carrie Moffitt

March 30 - Mint Spring: Won Un

April 6 - Christ: Tizzy Walker

Freewill offering to benefit Embrace, Waynesboro

Verona Food Pantry

This list is a guide line, any item you can give is welcomed.

Drop off at the office before the end of the month.

January - Cereal

February - peanut butter

March - canned fruit

April - mac 'n' cheese

May - canned meat / fish

June - canned veggies

July - staples, rice, beans, pasta

August - cereal

September - peanut butter

October - canned veggies

November - canned 'thanksgiving'

December - Pot Luck

The food pantry is always looking for paper products; household, babies, ladies etc
These items can be donated any time, we will get them to the food pantry for you.

Sunday Service is now available on a DVD. If you would like a copy delivered to your home, please call the church office and we will take care of getting one to you.

Psalm 32 Word Search

Just for fun, or use as a teaching aide with your younger family members.

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

Find the **37 bold** words or phrases from Psalm 32

¹ **Happy** are those whose **transgression** is forgiven, whose **sin is covered**. ² Happy are those to whom the **Lord imputes** no **iniquity**, and in **whose spirit** there is no **deceit**. ³ While I kept **silence**, my body wasted away through my **groaning** all day long. ⁴ For day and night **your hand** was **heavy** upon me; my **strength** was dried up as by the **heat of summer**. ⁵ Then I **acknowledged** my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, “I will **confess** my transgressions to the Lord,” and you **forgave** the guilt of my sin. ⁶ **Therefore** let all who are **faithful** offer **prayer** to you; at a time of **distress**, the rush of **mighty waters** shall not reach them. ⁷ You are a **hiding place** for me; you **preserve me** from trouble; you **surround** me with glad cries of **deliverance**. ⁸ I will **instruct you** and teach you the way you should go; I will **counsel** you with my eye upon you. ⁹ Do not be like a **horse** or a **mule**, without **understanding**, whose **temper** must be curbed with **bit and bridle**, else it will not stay near you. ¹⁰ Many are the **torments** of the wicked, but **steadfast love** surrounds those who trust in the Lord. ¹¹ Be glad in the Lord and **rejoice**, O **righteous**, and shout for joy, all you **upright in heart**.

Bach Around The Clock

Bach Around the Clock returns in person March 19, 2022 to Christ Lutheran Church, 2807 N. Augusta Street, Staunton. This yearly event is co-sponsored by the Heifetz International Music Institute and Christ Lutheran Church. From 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. superb performers will play and sing the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, who wrote intricate string compositions, hundreds of organ and keyboard works, and over 300 cantatas. The event is free and open to the public. Donations are encouraged for the evening organ recital and choral program. A complete lineup of performers and works will be posted at www.bacharoundtheclock.org.

For string enthusiasts, the day will begin with the Heifetz Ensemble in Residence (HEIR) playing a Bach string sampler. Yeesun Kim Kitchen will perform Bach Cello Suites Nos. 1, 2, and 4 at 10:00 am and Nicholas Kitchen, Artistic Director of the Heifetz Institute, will perform Bach's Sonatas and Partitas Nos. 1, 2, and 3 for solo violin from noon until 2:00 pm. A program for children entitled

"Bach for Kids: "Peep the Piper" will be held at 11:00 am. Peter Blanchette and Mané Lareggía, will play Bach's music on archguitars at 4:00 pm, and Jingxuan Zhang will play the keyboard music of CPE Bach at 5:00 pm.

For organ enthusiasts, Florence Jowers, Organist at Christ Lutheran Church, will present a recital on the Taylor & Boody Organ at 2:00 pm; Charlottesville organists will be featured in the 3:00 pm hour; and Bálint Karosi, from Saint Peter Church, Manhattan, will perform the featured organ recital at 6:30 pm.

A choral extravaganza at 7:30 pm will serve as the Grand Finale. Guest soloists, chamber choir, and orchestra conducted by the Rev. Dr. Paul Weber will perform Cantata 12 Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen and Cantata 140 Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, Bach's most well-known cantata.

Come and enjoy the elegant music of Bach in Christ Lutheran's acoustically vibrant space! If you wish to support Bach Around the Clock, you may request a patron letter from Christ Lutheran Church at celcsta@gmail.com or make a donation at the evening program.