

Worship Notes

Leading worship tonight: Kathy Beach, pastor, Lance Perry, liturgist, Dave McCollum, Director of Music, Eric Luke, accompanist, Holly Bannan, Director of Discipleship and Communications.

Lent and Ash Wednesday

Lent is the season in the church year in which we, as the community of Christians, prepare, through prayer and penance, for the renewing of our baptismal promises at the celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter. In the Old Testament we read that the Israelites used ashes and dust as signs of mortality, sorrow, and repentance. By A.D. 1091, Christians had universally accepted the practice of using ashes on the head as a sign of the desire for healing from brokenness and sin.

Our Lenten journey to Easter and beyond begins with Ash Wednesday's tracing of a cross with ashes on our foreheads or our hand. In this symbolic action we face our mortality, recognize our falling short of God's call and mission for our lives, and look forward to personal and communal renewal as Jesus' companions along the way of life.

During Lent, we will study Simon Peter, the "flawed but faithful disciple," based on Rev. Dr. Adam Hamilton's book. On Sunday mornings, the Discoverer's class will do this study together. Our students, both children and youth, will also participate in the Bible study during Lent. Kathy will lead a study group on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 in the Library, beginning March 12. Books are \$15 each. You can sign up and pay for the book in the church office with Holly or Hazel through March 6.

During Lent, we have another special Sunday School class being offered called "Exploring the Spiritual Practice of Centering Prayer." This six week group, led by Rev. Lance Perry, will not only review the practice of Centering Prayer, but will also practice it. The group will begin Sunday, March 10 from 9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. No book or prior reading required, but if you like to prepare ahead you can read "Intimacy with God" by Thomas Keating. For discussion purposes, this group will be limited to 10 people. Call or email Hazel in the church office to sign up, at office@rumplechurch.org.

Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging Event, April 7, 3-5pm, Blowing Rock School
Rumple is partnering with St. Mary's, St. Mark's, Appalachian State Presbyterian Episcopal Campus Ministry, and Blowing Rock School for our 2nd annual Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event. The packaged meals are used primarily to support school feeding programs in developing countries, including countries in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, and not only address hunger but also the related challenges of poverty, disease, education, and the welfare of women and children. You can visit their [website](#) for more information.

If you would like to volunteer, please call or email Hazel at office@rumplechurch.org.

On Wednesday afternoons during Lent, our students are studying "The Faces of Easter". Each week, they will learn about Jesus' life and ministry. If you have a student in kindergarten through 8th grade, contact Holly for ways to connect the stories at home.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Rumple Memorial Presbyterian Church
March 6, 2019

Each newborn servant of the crucified bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died.

Lift High the Cross

Prelude "Ah, Holy Jesus!" Johann Crüger

Welcome

Vocal Introit "Come Ye Sinners" Holly Bannan, soloist

+Call to Worship- John 3, Psalm 46

God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

God's love endures forever.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble.

God's love endures forever.

+Hymn "Lord, Who Throughout the Forty Days" No. 166

Psalm of Confession Psalm 51

Prayer of Response

Almighty God, you do not despise anything you have made. You forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts this Lenten season, that truly repenting of our sins, and acknowledging our brokenness, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 58:1-12; p. 647

New Testament Lesson 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2; p. 170

Invitation to the Lenten Discipline and Draping of the Cross

Litany of Confession

Lord God, You know that only one who suffers can ultimately save,
That is why you walk the way of the cross.

**We fear that vulnerability which defies our power;
And so we cry for crucifixion.**

Your thoughts are not our thoughts,

Neither are your ways our ways.

And yet we know that your way is the ladder to heaven,

While, left to our own devices, our ways slope downwards to hell.

But we are here, not to have our worst confirmed,

But to have our best liberated.

So we pray.

Forgive in us what has gone wrong,

Repair in us what is wasted,

Reveal in us what is good.

And nourish us with better food than we could ever purchase.

Your word, Your love, Your inspiration,

Your daily bread for our life's journey,

In the company of Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Imposition of Ashes "Jesus, Remember Me" No. 227

You are invited to come forward and receive the ashes as a sign of repentance and our need for new life.

"Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Genesis 3:19

Prayer

+Hymn "Stay With Me" No. 204

+Charge and Benediction

May God keep us faithful to the word

Wash us in the river of the water of life,

Help us to walk in newness

And keep our whole being- spirit, soul, body-

Free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Go in peace this Lenten season to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

+Depart in Peace

As you depart the sanctuary you are invited to touch the water of baptism as a reminder that you have been washed clean and made new in Christ.