



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



We Follow the Light of Christ

*This Lent, even as we may be
broken and bitter,
shattered and separated,
parched and pulled apart,
God meets us, seeking to restore, repair, renew.*

Prelude	<i>"Jesus Loves Me" with "He Hideth My Soul"</i> <i>By William Bradbury & William Kirkpatrick/arr. Matt Limbaugh</i>	Ashley Clasen
Welcome		Rev. Elizabeth Horton
Call to Holy Lent	<i>"You Lead Us Through"</i>	Ellen Peterson
Invitation to Worship		Rev. Horton
Hymn	<i>"Down to the River to Pray"</i>	Ellen Peterson
Genesis 9:8-17		Carolyn Robbins

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Horton

**God of the rainbow,
You made a covenant with all creatures, promising life and hope. You show us how we should walk:
connected to one another and to you. Yet, we often forget.
Forgive us when we wander from truth to follow the paths of deceit and pride.
Forgive us when we think we are the center of the universe.
Forgive us when we fail to hear the cries of the hurting and when we utter words that hurt others.
Have mercy upon us, O Lord, and lead us back into the arms of your love, we pray, through Christ
Jesus our Lord and Savior, Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

"May the peace of Christ be with you."

Mark 1: 9-15

Rev. Horton

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.
10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit
descending like a dove on him. 11 And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved;
with you I am well pleased.'

12 And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. 13 He was in the wilderness for forty
days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, 15 and
saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the
good news.'

Hymn

"Forty Days and Forty Nights"

Ellen Peterson

Sharing a Time of Being in the Wilderness

Rev. June Grubb

Sermon

"God Meets Us: In the Wilderness"

Rev. Horton

Benediction

Postlude

"He Leadeth Me"

By William Bradbury/arr. Mark Hayes

Ashley Clasen

Join our **Fellowship & Prayer Concerns** after worship from 12-12:30PM and catch up with your church
friends! **Join Zoom Meeting [HERE](#) (Meeting ID: 207 685 007 Passcode: 3n7IX8 Dial in: +1 301 715 8592)**

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FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

104 EAST CENTER STREET, LEXINGTON, NC 27292

PHONE: 336-248-2617 WEBSITE: www.frucc.org FACEBOOK: <https://facebook.com/firstreformeducc>

Ministers: The Congregation

Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Horton (elizabeth@frucc.org, cell/text #336-972-8895)

Minister of Pastoral Care: Rev. June Grubb (jgrubb3@triad.rr.com #336-248-5668)

Choir Director: Ellen Peterson (ellenpeterson@gmail.com) **Pianist:** Ashley Clasen

Admin. Asst.: Carolyn Robbins (carolyn@frucc.org) **Financial Secretary:** Paula Lopp (paula@frucc.org)

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

23rd ...Susie Smith

24th ...Megan Horton

26^h ...Cliff Lopp

OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

OUR MEMBERS:

Merle and Jerry Hodges, Susan Odom (at home), Ellen Bouchard, Lisa Price, Deanna Michael

OUR MEMBERS AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:

Peggy Bates, Janelle Bunn, Marzell Crofts, Ruth Essick, Pattie Everhart, Vogen Everhart, Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, Marguerite Leonard, Bob Shaak, Lib Sink, Katherine Skipper, Carolyn Spivey, Adena Wall

OUR FRIENDS:

Frank Westmoreland (on the loss of his mother, Geraldine Westmoreland), Bob Sheehan (Eddie Yates' brother-in-law), Wendi Greene (Bill Robbins' sister), Ashley Thomason Hutcheson (Ron & Heidi Hutcheson's daughter-in-law), Barbara Miller (Eddie Yates' mother), Angie Bouchard (Lee and Ellen Bouchard's youngest daughter)

**Indicates newly added. Names will remain on the list for 4 weeks. To add a name to the prayer list please call the church office (336-248-2617).*

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, February 21: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

9:45AM Adult Sunday School: REND YOUR HEARTS: CLAIMING THE PROMISE

First Sunday in Lent – “This is the Sign” (Rev. June Grubb, facilitator)

Genesis 9: 8-17

Join the meeting [HERE](#). (Meeting ID: 890 2652 8333 Passcode: 634119)

10:45AM Worship online via YouTube [HERE](#) or Facebook [HERE](#).

12:00PM Fellowship & Prayer Concerns

Zoom Meeting [HERE](#) (Meeting ID: 207 685 007 Passcode: 3n7IX8 Dial in: +1 301 715 8592)

2:00PM 2nd Annual Commemoration to the Slaves, Lexington City Cemetery

TUESDAY, February 23:

12:00PM 2CFAR meeting via ZOOM: Voices of the 2CFar People of Color

Join Zoom Meeting [HERE](#). (Meeting ID: 873 4191 8684 Passcode: 222495)

7:00PM Adult Book Study Group

“Who Will Be A Witness? Integrating Activism for God's Justice” by Drew G. I. Hart

Join the meeting [HERE](#). (Meeting ID: 846 9163 5471 Passcode: 524570)

WEDNESDAY, February 24:

12:00 ITEMS FOR MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER DUE IN THE OFFICE

SATURDAY, February 27:

12:30PM Open Hands Ministry Carry-Out Lunch Served

SUNDAY, February 28: SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

9:45AM Adult Sunday School: REND YOUR HEARTS: CLAIMING THE PROMISE

Second Sunday in Lent: “Walk Before Me”

Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

Join the meeting [HERE](#). (Meeting ID: 890 2652 8333 Passcode: 634119)

10:45AM Worship online via YouTube [HERE](#) or Facebook [HERE](#).

12:00PM Fellowship & Prayer Concerns

Zoom Meeting [HERE](#) (Meeting ID: 207 685 007 Passcode: 3n7IX8 Dial in: +1 301 715 8592)

FIRST REFORMED UCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOOKING TOWARD SUNDAY: A MESSAGE FROM REV. HORTON

"Remember from the dust you came and to the dust you shall return: This is the Good News."

Dear Friends,

In the parking lot of First Reformed, Rev. Les Smith and I partnered from Noon until 2:00pm on Ash Wednesday with Q-tips in hand. We began the Lenten season by reciting these ancient words and marking our foreheads with a cross from the ashes of Palms we waved a long, long time ago.

Although the "Ashes to Go" ritual was quite different in these days of Covid, I welled up with emotion each time I bent down to look in a car window and found myself eye to eye with dear souls I knew well and dear souls I had never seen before.

In this 2021 Covid-style Lent, we recognize over the past 11 months many have already suffered and sacrificed; already given up too much: families, jobs, hopes, faith, and even their very lives.

What if, instead of giving up a piece of chocolate or a glass of wine this Lent, we allowed these 40 days of preparation before Easter to help us remember that

no matter where we have been or where we may end up,
God is always present,
and will meet us just where we are.

This Lent, we will grow into more faithful disciples, even as we may be:

broken and bitter,
shattered and separated,
parched and pulled apart.

God meets us, seeking to restore, repair, renew.

This Sunday, Rev. June Grubb will share **A Time of Wilderness** in her life.

We all have found ourselves in the wilderness at some point.

Have you gone through a season when you felt parched or broken, hopeless or lost, weary or wandering?

What gave you a sense of hope or renewal?

Who helped lift you up?

Would you be willing to share your experience in our online worship service? Let me know if you are. Sharing our stories is a powerful ministry that reminds us we are not alone.

May we enter a Holy Lent together,

Elizabeth

OPEN HANDS SATURDAY LUNCH MINISTRY

Open Hands Ministry and First Reformed UCC have joined to start a new lunch program. We will serve a carry-out lunch at 12:30 on Saturdays out of the Fellowship Hall kitchen at First Reformed. Volunteer or come for a carry-out meal for this Saturday Lunch. Contact John Maze if you would like to help. (704-524-6462)

A SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION TO THE SLAVES

Everyone is invited as part of Black History Month, on **Sunday, February 21st at 2:00PM**, to the 2nd Annual *Service of Commemoration to the Slaves buried on this site by their Slave Masters* at the Lexington City Cemetery on the State Street side. Led by Rev. Dr. Arnetta Beverly and sponsored by St. Stephen United Methodist Church, clergy and laity, there will be participation from the Greater Lexington Area Ministerial Association and Lexington Community Ministers Conference.

Since this event is in-person, please social distance and wear a mask.

LENT 2021: OUR WILDERNESS STORIES

The season of Lent begins with Jesus in the Wilderness, where he faced tremendous struggle. We all have found ourselves in the wilderness at various points in our lives. Have you gone through a season when you felt parched or broken, hopeless or lost? A time of wilderness or weary wandering? What gave you a sense of hope or renewal? Who helped lift you up? How did you move out of the struggle?

Would you be willing to share your own experience of the wilderness in our online worship service during Lent? If so, please let me know at elizabeth@frucc.org Sharing our stories is a powerful ministry and lets others know they are not alone when walking through tough times.

2CFAR - CRUCIAL CONVERSATIONS ON FAITH AND RACE MEETINGS

You are invited at **noon each Tuesday through February** as we listen to the **Voices of the 2CFar People of Color**. During the Zoom call, folks who are part of our Crucial Conversations on Faith and Race will share their experiences and stories around race. The mission of these listening sessions is to learn about the past and the present so that we may work toward a future of reconciliation in Lexington and Davidson County. Join the meetings Tuesday at Noon [HERE](#). **(Meeting ID: 873 4191 8684 Passcode: 222495)**

NEW ADULT BIBLE STUDY

A new Sunday Morning Bible Study begins this Sunday, February 21st. The theme is: **“REND YOUR HEARTS: CLAIMING THE PROMISE.”**

So, why practice the season of Lent? Maybe there is more to Lent than the suffering that we have endured during the past months of physical distancing and pandemic lock-down? Maybe there is more than the reflection and analysis that we are prone to do during the Season of Lent. So, what is the end of this season? Why do we have this period of preparation, of fasting, and self-denial, of repentance and confession, of putting our spiritual house in order?

Lent is about embracing the Resurrected One with a whole and longing heart. Lent doesn't have to be a somber time; but to be effective, it needs to be intense. It needs to be taken seriously and rigorously, so that we can bring our full selves to the table. We are enabled to embrace the fullness of the promise of Resurrection and live as disciples of Jesus Christ. So, despite feeling as though we have been in a year-long season of Lent, we need this season; we need the observance to open us to all that God has in store for us. Rend your hearts, so together we can claim the promise. You may join the meeting [HERE](#). **(Meeting ID: 890 2652 8333 Passcode: 634119)**

First Sunday in Lent – February 21st
“This is the Sign” (Rev. June Grubb, facilitator)
Genesis 9:8-17

Second Sunday in Lent – February 28th
“Walk Before Me”
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Third Sunday in Lent – March 7th
“All These Words”
Exodus 20:1-7

Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 14th
“Look Up and Live”
Numbers 21:4-9

Fifth Sunday in Lent – March 21st
“Written on the Heart”
Jeremiah 31:31-34

Palm/Passion Sunday – March 28th
“The One Who Comes”
Mark 11:1-11...Mark 14:1-15:47...Isaiah 50:4-9

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

As part of our church's wider mission, One Great Hour of Sharing is scheduled for Sunday, March 14, 2021. Offerings collected for this mission will go to places lacking health and educational resources and/or where disaster has struck. You may make donations through our church or give directly to One Great Hour of Sharing at ucc.org/oghs.

WNCA 2021 SPRING EDUCATIONAL FORUM

Join the annual WNCA Spring Educational Forum with a focus on "Emotional Sustainability" as part of their WISE initiative. The keynote speaker is Jan Remer-Osborn, PhD. MM. MDIV who will speak on **Building Blocks of Emotional Resilience: Surviving a Pandemic**. Topics include...

- With God, all things are possible!
- Enhancing your core strengths to survive and adapt.
- Calling on your best mind to respond to challenges.
- Limiting Catastrophic thinking.
- Self-coaching: turning up the positive.
- Accepting change, improving your flexibility.
- Tenacity and Perseverance.
- Using Mindfulness to Gain Perspective.
- Social support: Can't live well without it!
- Yes, You Deserve Compassion!
- Take-home exercises to practice.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS MARCH 2nd!

[Click Here For More Info & To Register](#)

[Click to Download Agenda](#)

JAMES H. LIGHTBOURNE, JR. SCHOLARSHIP

The James H. Lightbourne, Jr. scholarship application was established to assist needy and deserving high school graduates and college students, who are members of the United Church of Christ in the Southern Conference, to achieve their educational goals. Each applicant must submit the most recent copy of his/her high school or college transcript. Current high school graduates will be considered first, then college freshman, then upper classmen. **The due date for application form and transcript must be by the March 1, 2021.**

Download the James H. Lightbourne, Jr. scholarship application [HERE](#).

VERNON GASTON (V.G.) PRICE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Vernon Price was a man with accomplishments in many fields of endeavor, yet the things most dear to him were very simple – his family, his faith, his students and his town. For this reason, his family has requested that a scholarship be established in his name and that the recipients of the award encompass the ideals held most dear by V.G.

Criteria:

The scholarship is open to any member of First Reformed United Church of Christ, or student from the Lexington City or Davidson County School Systems. **The application and attachments are due MARCH 31ST.** The recipient will be chosen by May 1st of his/her senior year in high school. Presentation will be made at the student's Senior Award's Day. The recipient must maintain at least a 2.5 GPA throughout his/her junior and senior years in high school, demonstrate good citizenship, and be an active member of a church.

The selection committee will consist of three members of the Price/Bowie family, the minister, and a member of the Board of Trustees from First Reformed United Church of Christ.

To obtain an application, you may stop by the church office to pick up a hard copy, email the church office for a copy to be emailed to you, look for a copy in the February 2021 copy of the church newsletter, or click [HERE](#) for a copy.

INVITATION TO TAKE PART IN WORSHIP SERVICES

We invite you to take part in our worship service by reading Scripture or saying a prayer. We will provide the Scripture text and easy instructions for recording yourself with your device at home. If you would like to read in worship service, please click on this Sign-Up Genius link to sign up for a Sunday: [Worship Reader](#).

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

If you happen to miss a week of our worship services and other events that are shared on our Facebook and YouTube pages, they will remain on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)'s history, so you may go back to watch any time.