



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

God Meets Us: Loss

*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>"Does Jesus Care?"</i> By J. Lincoln Hill/arr. Faye Lopez	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>"O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go"</i>	Ellen Peterson
Scripture	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Dave Fulton

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

Prayer of Confession		Rev. Horton
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**Holy God,
Take what is closed within us and open it.
Take what is distracted within us and settle it.
Take what is hurting within us and hold it.
Take any and all parts of us that create distance from you.**

**O God we are like Peter. We argue what we don't know.
We fear what we cannot see. And we almost always speak sooner than we listen.**

So, open us, O Lord, settle us, hold us, and have mercy us and forgive us we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon	<i>"May the peace of Christ be with you."</i>	
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Hymn	<i>"Take Up Your Cross"</i>	Ellen Peterson
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Scripture Reading

Mark 8:31-38

Rev. Horton

Then Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

Sermon

God Meets Us: In Our Loss

Benediction

Postlude

"What Wondrous Love Is This" with "The Love of God"
By Frederick Lehman)/arr. Virginia Halberg

Ashley Clasen

Please join us next week, as we share Holy Communion

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

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Ministers: The Congregation

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

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

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

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

ANNIVERSARIES

28th ...Jerry & Aurelia Smith

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

1st ...Ann Kirkman

2nd ...Vicky Gray

3rd ...Corinne Gray

4th ...Emma West

5th ...Charyl Clark

...Tony Peele

6th ...Rylee Grzech

OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

OUR MEMBERS:

*Heidi Hutcheson (recovering from surgery at WFUBMC), Merle and Jerry Hodges, Susan Odom (at home), Lisa Price, Deanna Michael

OUR MEMBERS AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:

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

Brookdale: Vogen Everhart

OUR FRIENDS:

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)

**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 28: SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

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

Second Sunday in Lent: "Walk Before Me" (Smithie Parrish, facilitator)

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)

TUESDAY, March 2:

12:00PM 2CFAR meeting via ZOOM

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, March 3:

5:30PM High School Youth via Zoom

SATURDAY, March 6:

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

SUNDAY, March 7: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT and HOLY COMMUNION

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

Third Sunday in Lent: "All These Words" (Eulene Shepherd, facilitator)

Exodus 20:1-7

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)

12:15PM Consistory Meeting via Zoom

FIRST REFORMED UCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOOKING TOWARD SUNDAY: A MESSAGE FROM REV. HORTON

Dear Friends,

This Sunday, in Mark's gospel, we see a shift in Jesus' ministry. He tells the disciples he will be rejected, undergo suffering, and even face death. Jesus says if they want to be his disciples, they must take up their cross and follow him. Much like us, Peter doesn't want to hear this, and he tries to talk Jesus out of this life of sacrifice. Jesus then utters the well-known phrase, "Get thee behind me, Satan."

Peter is not different from us, really. Neither do we want to hear the sharp hard truth of the Gospel: We must Lose our life, for the sake of the Gospel, to Find our Life. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer stated, "There is a cost to discipleship."

Are we willing to let go of our security and comfort, status quo and tradition, for the sake of the Gospel?

This Lent, let these 40 days of preparation before Easter help us remember that
no matter where we have been or where we may end up,
God is always present, seeking to restore, repair, and renew.
God meets us just where we are:

In our Loss, Mark 8:31-38

February 28

In our Anger, John 2:13-22

March 7

In our Doubt, John 3:14-21

March 14

In our Confusion, John 12:20-33

March 21

In the Palms and Passion

March 28

May we enter a Holy Lent together,
Elizabeth

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

"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)**

Second Sunday in Lent – February 28th
"Walk Before Me" (Smithie Parrish, facilitator)
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Third Sunday in Lent – March 7th
“**All These Words**” (Eulene Shepherd, facilitator)
Exodus 20:1-7

Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 14th
“**Look Up and Live**” (Eddie Yates, facilitator)
Numbers 21:4-9

Fifth Sunday in Lent – March 21st
“**Written on the Heart**” (Mike Hooper, facilitator)
Jeremiah 31:31-34

Palm/Passion Sunday – March 28th
“**The One Who Comes**” (June Grubb, facilitator)
Mark 11:1-11...Mark 14:1-15:47...Isaiah 50:4-9

CHILDREN'S MOVIE NIGHT

WHAT: Dinner and a Movie

WHO: Children pre-K through 5th Grade

WHEN: Friday, March 19, 2021 from 6:00-8:00PM

WHERE: Church Fellowship Hall.

RSVP: Please call the church office to RSVP by March 17th. All COVID precautions will be in place. Please wear a mask.

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.

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.