

Devotion for the First Week of Lent

All This Time

I put my headphones in.
I walk quickly.
I look toward the ground.
I create one million barriers
of independence,
but still God seeks after me.
God leans a rainbow over the sky.
God sends sun after the rain.
God blankets the earth with wildflowers.
God allows music to carry
and laughter to rise,
all so that I might notice.
And when I do notice,
the unfurling that begins in my soul
is slow and holy and burning.
I am not alone.
God has been chasing after me
all this time.

By Sarah Speed

“Go away from me, Lord. I am not deserving of this abundance. ...Wait, Lord, I need to follow. I can't be left behind.” (paraphrase Luke 5)

Consider an instance when you have felt overwhelmed by God's abundance. How did you respond?



Heyward St UMC

2501 Heyward St
Columbia, SC 29205

www.heywardst.church



Jesus doesn't seek out trained rabbis to be his disciples; instead, he calls a few Galilean fishermen to follow him and join his ministry. In this story, Jesus tells Simon Peter to drop his nets one more time, even though they've been fishing all night long and have caught nothing. To their surprise, they haul in nets bursting with fish. In response to this abundant miracle, Peter says, "Go away from me, Lord!" And yet, Peter and his partners drop their nets and follow Jesus. What is the beginning of your faith story? When has God sought you out? Have you ever felt like your calling was pursuing—or chasing—you? Did you resist? Did you follow?

Used with permission Sanctified Art

The First Sunday of Lent

Gathered to Worship

February 18, 2024

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Song *Sing Wherever I Go* Praise Team

Lenten Candles

As the days lengthen, we follow Jesus on his journey to the cross. The light grows dim as we anticipate Jesus' sacrifice and as we hope for the dawn of Easter morning.

Lenten Response

In joy, success, and triumph,

we belong to each other.

In sadness, sorrow, and distress,

we belong to each other.

At home, at church, at work, at school, at rest, and at play,

we belong to each other.

In accord and in disagreement,

we belong to each other.

In Christ, we are all equals, and,

we belong to each other.

Scripture Luke 5:1-11 Pew Bible p 62

Receiving of the Offering

Hymn *Come Thou Fount* UMH 400

Sermon Jesus Sought Me Rev. Blom

Song *I Will Follow* Praise Team

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Closing Song *Leaning* Praise Team

Benediction / Extinguish Lenten Candle



Food Collection Ends Today!

Thank you for donating items to stock the shelves for Koala Pantry, a food resource for students at Columbia College. Our donations will be delivered this week.



HSUMC's church office and Heyward St Preschool **will be closed** Monday in observance of President's Day.

The Big Meeting is Coming! On February 25, all committees and teams will meet in the fellowship hall to envision our ministry and mission for 2024 as well as add upcoming events to the calendar. All are welcome to attend and add their ideas to the discussion. Lunch will be served.



Praying for HSUMC Friends and Family

Wayne Whitworth as he recovers from surgery

Joe Elliott

Karen Goodale

Dixie Jenkinson

Joel & Lisa Leonard

2501 Heyward Street, Columbia, 29205

(803) 771-4540