

Devotion for the Third Week of Lent

Praise the Mount

I have stayed quiet before.
I have held my tongue
while passing mountains.
I have slipped my hands deep into pockets,
despite the music that invites me to dance.
I have glimpsed a new moon and a new love
and have acted as if it was something other
than a complete, God-given miracle.
But not today. Not today. Today I will dance.
Today I will tap my toes all the way to heaven's gates.
Today I will point out every shade of
gold and periwinkle that we pass.
Today I will talk about my faith like we talk about the
weather— early and unprompted, comfortable and
unashamed.
Today I will tell you that God did such a good job with
freckles, willow trees, and your entire being.
And I will not be embarrassed by my own conviction.
I will not swallow my praise.
I have stayed quiet before,
but not today. Today I will sing.

By Sarah Speed

Peter used “Messiah” and “Son of the Living God” to describe Jesus. What words would you choose? (Mt 16:16)

Jesus asked the disciples to not tell anyone about his role as Messiah. If the disciples were not to tell anyone, how would people know who Jesus was?



Heyward St UMC

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“Praise the mount of God’s unchanging love. . .” This lyric represents Peter’s mountaintop faith moment. It speaks to spiritual euphoria and feeling the closeness of God. In this story, Peter proclaims who Jesus is. He speaks with conviction. Peter claims his faith. If you had to speak your faith in one sentence or phrase, what would you say? When we have the courage to say, “This, I believe...” then that conviction has a ripple effect on others. When life gets rocky, we lean on mountaintop moments and our deepest convictions to see us through. *Used with permission Sanctified Art*

The Third Sunday of Lent

Gathered to Worship

March 3, 2024

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Song Soul on Fire 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 The Apostles' Creed UMH 882

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Scripture Matthew 16:13-20 Pew Bible p 18

Sermon Praise the Mount Rev. Blom

Song *What a Beautiful Name* Praise Team

Prayers of the People

Words of Institution / Communion

Please come down the center aisle. Receive a piece of bread and dip in the cup. Return via the side aisle. As you come, bring a prayer request or offering for the plate.

Communion Hymn *What Wondrous Love* UMH 292

Closing Song *We Are One* Praise Team

Benediction / Extinguish Lenten Candle



Carolina Jazz Society hosts their monthly concert today at 2:30 pm in the fellowship hall. All are welcome.

Read. Discuss. Repeat.



United in Faith, a newly formed book club, announces its first book, *The Loneliness Epidemic* by Susan Mettes. You are invited to read the book and then meet on May 21 at 6:30 pm for discussion. Copies of the book will be available to purchase for \$10. All are invited to participate.

Through the Eyes of Peter – March 28

On Thursday of Holy Week, drop in for self-guided prayer stations focused on Peter's view of the events leading up to the death of Jesus. Stations will be available in the sanctuary between 11 am and 1 pm.



Praying for HSUMC Friends and Family

Gaye Besly as she recovers from surgery
Dixie Jenkinson Joel & Lisa Leonard
Fred & Susan McFadden Jay and Jan Runy