

Devotion for the Fifth Week of Lent

Teach me about the ways of the wind,
about the ways of the world,
about the ways of the heart.

Teach me about the soft crook of my lover's arm
and the way two souls can hold each other close.

Teach me about forgiveness,
about the language of I'm sorry
and the softness of sincerity.

Teach me about abundance,
about seventy-times-seven and
all the days of my life.

Teach me about joy,
about its contagious weaving and its soul-healing.

Teach me about mercy,
about open hands and deep breaths.

Teach me about the dawn of time
and the stars in the sky.

Teach me what matters most.

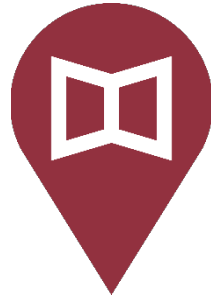
Teach me what is mine to do.

Teach this achingly curious heart
until I run out of questions or I run out of days.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,
and I will have a life well-lived.

By Sarah Speed

What emotions do the phrase "a life well lived" ignite in you?



Heyward St UMC

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Peter is often all or nothing, either resisting Jesus or drawing closer to him in earnest. In this scripture, we see a version of Peter who is hungry to learn. His posture is humble and open—he wants to absorb Jesus' teachings like a wet sponge. He asks a question and might expect a straightforward answer: "How many times should I forgive?" Instead, Jesus' math is not predictable—it's infinite. Forgiveness is abundant; grace is not earned. Can you let go of black-and-white thinking and instead embrace the infinite colors of grace?

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The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Gathered to Worship

March 17, 2024

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Song *Faithful God* 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 A Prayer of Confession Bairby

Living Christ, with whom we journey to the cross, we confess that we are always looking for an easier way. We long for the peacefulness of life with you, but we watch and wait. We desire life in community, but we stubbornly ask for measurements of grace. In spite of all that, you offer infinite grace even when our best efforts fall short. Transform us, renew us, and free us from our attachment to what was, so that you might bring us into the glory of what will be.

Assurance of Pardon

Though there are many days when we fail to love as you loved, you let us start anew each day. With humble hearts, we accept the grace freely offered.

Scripture Matthew 18:21-22 Pew Bible p 20

Receiving of the Offering

Hymn Great Is Thy Faithfulness UMH 140

Sermon Teach Me Rev. Blom

Song *Known* Praise Team

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Closing Song *We Are One* Praise Team

Benediction / Extinguish Lenten Candle



Please Donate Filled Plastic Easter Eggs

We are hosting an Easter Egg Hunt as part of the preschool's family gathering on March 25. We need eggs to hide. Please donate a dozen by March 24.

A Drop In Event on Maundy Thursday, March 28

Self-guided reflection/interaction stations will be available in sanctuary 11 am – 1 pm. The stations will be "Through the Eyes of Peter" as Jesus makes the final steps toward the cross.



Grab Your Copy of the Book!

United in Faith, our quarterly book club, is reading *The Loneliness Epidemic* by Mettes. We will meet to discuss the book on May 21 at 6:30 pm. Copies of the book may be purchased for \$10. Please see Pastor Tammy.

Information Session about General Conference

Today at 3 pm at Washington St UMC. Presenter is UMC Bishop Ken Carder. In person or live on YouTube.

We hold Heather Williams, Gaye Besly, and Wayne Whitworth **in our prayers** as they recuperate.

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