



FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 9, 2025 | 8:30AM & 11:00AM

✠ please stand as you are able

PRELUDE

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

BACH

WELCOME & MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

MEDITATION ON THE CROSS

MATTHEW 26:14-16

The Bag of Silver

Come, let us return to the Lord, who is merciful and compassionate.

Christ was betrayed for thirty pieces of silver, yet He remained faithful to us.

Let us remember His sacrifice and love.

We come to worship our Redeemer.

✠ HYMN

And Can It Be that I Should Gain

UMH 363

✠ THE APOSTLES' CREED

UMH 881

✠ GLORIA PATRI

OFFERTORY

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

(ARR. KERIN)

✠ THE LENTEN REFRAIN

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS (CHORUS)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT (11 AM)

Children 4 years old up to 6th grade can meet at the side door for Children's Church. They are to be picked up immediately following the service in the Pier Room upstairs in the Education Building.

HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This

UMH 292

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Bring your word near to us, O God, that it may reside in our hearts. By the power of your Holy Spirit, help us respond to your word with our whole lives until you become our dwelling place; through Jesus Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

✠ SCRIPTURE

John 8:31-36

SERMON

Jesus Died to Pay Our Debt

CONFESSION AND PARDON

O God, our refuge and fortress, forgive us when we fail to trust in you, when we fall into temptation, and we are swayed by false words. In turning from you, we settle for less than the abundant generosity you intend. Forgive us, we pray. Hear us as we call to you and show us your salvation. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Friends, believe the good news: God does not turn away from us, but desires to bring us into the glorious freedom offered in Jesus Christ. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Thanks be to God!

✠ PASSING OF THE PEACE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ~ THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

✠ HYMN *There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood*

UMH 622

✠ BENEDICTION

Depart in Quiet Reflection

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

GREETERS:

8:30
Trish Sutley

COMMUNION SERVERS:

8:30
Rosie & Mike Lockwood
Dr. Ann Pearson
Betty Stejskal
11:00
Ken Cooper
Emily Garner
Tom Hood
Carol Willis

PREACHER:

Rev. Michael Precht
Dr. Thomas Yow

LITURGIST:

Steve Pearson

ACOLYTE:

8:30 Harbour Robertson

USHERS:

8:30
Mark Woodrow
Marge Wegner
11:00
Mark Woodrow

MUSIC

CHANCEL CHOIR
Director, Tom Hood

HANDBELL CHOIR
Director, Judy DeBray

INSTRUMENTS
Accompanist, Vicki Wright
Flute, Natalie Woodrow

MEDIA:

Hackett Robertson
Toby Monckton

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

8:30am Traditional Worship
9:45am Coffee With the Pastors
9:45am Sunday School for all ages
11:00pm Stephen Ministry Trng
11:00am Traditional Worship
11:00am The Gathering Worship
6:00pm Prayer Service

MONDAY, MARCH 10

10:00am Knit and Crochet
3:00pm Grief Support Group
6:30pm Survivors of Suicide

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

12:30pm Cancer Support Grp
1:30pm Pack Chemo Care Bags
6:00pm Handbell Practice

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

11:00pm TJ's Food Ministry Mtg
1:30pm Weekly Bible Study
4:15-5:00pm Kids Choir (K-6th)
5-6:00pm Wednesday Supper
6-7:30pm Pier & SWIFT Kids
6-7:45pm SALT Student Ministry
6:00pm Church Culture Event
6:00pm Adult Choir

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

11am-1:00pm Community Café

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

8:30am Traditional Worship
9:45am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Traditional Worship
11:00am The Gathering Worship
5:00pm Board of Stewards

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March 12th Wednesday Supper

**Mexican Cornbread Taco Bake, Black Bean & Corn Salad,
Tortilla Chips and Banana Pudding**

Please call the church office or go online to make
reservations 251-928-1148.

Dressing the Cross ~ Throughout Lent, our worship includes a new element: "Dressing the Cross." Each Sunday, we will add a symbol to the cross and read scriptures as we meditate on Christ's suffering for us. We will end each week's reflection by singing the first verse and chorus of *Lead Me to the Cross*.

Church Culture Event ~ Every church has a culture – values, expectations, and habits that live outside of any official creed or mission statement. On March 12, from 6pm-7:30pm, Pastor Michael invites everyone to help us identify the unwritten rules in various aspects of our church: membership expectations, student and children's ministries, hospitality for newcomers, and more. Please come to share and to listen; your voice will help our Board of Stewards set goals and vision to guide our congregation for years to come!

Grief: A Journey in Stages ~ Join Rev. Laura Parker for a 3-week study on grief. This class will be taught on Wednesday nights March 19th, 26th, and April 2nd, from 6-7 pm. Registration is required, but there is no advance reading or cost. Class size will be limited.

Board of Stewards ~ March 16

Our Board of Stewards will have its first meeting of 2025 on March 16 at 5:00 PM. The Stewards will hear reports from all ministry areas and recommend ministry priorities for the next 1-3 years. This meeting is open to all!

THANK YOU, JULIA!

Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us that there are many seasons in life. One such season could be a season to work, and another the season to rest. On March 31, 2025, our beloved pastoral assistant, Julia Gavin, will retire and join in that season of rest which she deserves. Julia has been faithful in serving God on our behalf for 31 years. Her kindness, wisdom, and experience will be greatly missed. We are grateful for her service, but celebrate this time of rest and renewal she can have in retirement. We will be hosting an **informal, come-and-go reception for Julia on Friday, March 21st from 9:30 - 11:30** in the church library. All church members are encouraged to drop by and thank Julia for her service and wish her well in her retirement.

~ Noah Funderburg, Staff-Parish Relations Chair

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MEDICAL PERSONNEL | FIRST RESPONDERS | MILITARY PERSONNEL

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK:

John Ryan Jones

SYMPATHY:

Shelley and Keith Turnbull in the loss of her mother, Marlene Robinson

Monthly Finance Report: We are still reconciling expenses and non-gift income for last month, but our general giving has been entered. After a challenging January, we are grateful that giving in February was 9% higher than budgeted and 23% higher than in February 2024.

If you would like more information about church membership, contact one of our pastors or attend **Coffee with the Pastors today @ 9:45AM in the Conference Room, adjacent to the sanctuary.** Enter through the door under the bell tower or by the steps behind the sanctuary facing the parking lot. Look for directional signs on Sunday morning.



Scan this LINKTREE QR code to access all of Fairhope UMC's resources in one place! From sign-ups, worship times to serving and online giving, this code will take you directly to everything you need to stay connected with our church. Whether you're looking to RSVP for Wednesday Night Suppers, get involved in church activities, or learn more about where YOU can serve, it's all just a scan away.



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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Michael Precht, Senior Pastor

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Rev. Sheila Bates, Southwest District Superintendent

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, Alabama-West Florida Conference

155 SOUTH SECTION STREET ~ FAIRHOPE, AL 36532 ~ 251-928-1148 ~ FAIRHOPEUMC.ORG

"LOVE BOLDLY, CASTING THE LIGHT OF JESUS INTO THE WORLD"



THE GATHERING

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT *

MARCH 9, 2025 11:00AM AT FAIRHOPE UMC

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: Rev. Michael Precht

Media and Sound: Karl Langley, Jamie Waldhour, Nellie Meyers

Communion Servers: Sidney Carol & Miles Barnhardt, Shelly & Rick Fitzhugh,
Jennifer Galloway, Sherry Herron, Deb & Tom Slone

Usher: Charles Searce

**Our worship seasons allow us to re-experience the full life and ministry of Jesus every year. The season of Lent is a period of 40 days, inspired by Jesus' 40 days of temptation in the wilderness. In this season of prayer, fasting, and charity, we turn our attention to Jesus' sacrifice for us.*

OPENING SONG

This is Amazing Grace

WELCOME & MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

CALL TO WORSHIP ~ BAG OF SILVER

MATTHEW 26:14-16

Come, let us return to the Lord, who is merciful and compassionate.

Christ was betrayed for thirty pieces of silver, yet He remained faithful to us.

Let us remember His sacrifice and love.

We come to worship our Redeemer.

SINGING OUR PRAISE

Your Grace is Enough

No Longer Slaves

Living Hope

SCRIPTURE

John 8:31-36

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SERMON

Jesus Died to Pay Our Debt

REV. MICHAEL PRECHT

CONFESSION & PARDON

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Thanks be to God!

THANKSGIVING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ~ THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP[†]

BENEDICTION

[†]You do not have to be a member of this church, or of any, to receive from Christ's table. We welcome all who desire to meet Christ in this meal where he has promised to meet us.

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