



Spiritual Exercise for the Soul...

Season of Lent

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

February 22, 2026 at Eleven O'Clock A.M.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The worship of God begins with the music of the organ. Use this time for meditation and reflection and please refrain from conversation which would disturb others. Please turn off or silence all electronic devices. Following worship, share your friendship with those around you.

PRELUDE

Mr. Ross

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Dr. Grammer

CHORAL INTROIT: From, "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

MORNING SONG

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray, teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.

Claudia Francis Hernaman

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 180: "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

ST. FLAVIAN

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Mr. Mauk

Leader: Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

People: **As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.**

Leader: In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt, and temptation.

People: **As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.**

Leader: Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

People: **As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.**

Thom Shuman

* GLORIA PATRI

GREATOREX

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

* INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Edwards

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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

** Please stand as you are able.*

CONFESSON OF SIN

Dr. Grammer

Leader: Gracious and merciful God, we confess to you our reluctance to enter the wilderness places where we are confronted with our true selves: when we are tempted to put worldly values before our desire for you, and when our hunger for power and wealth is greater than our hunger for seeking and doing your will:

People: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

Leader: When we are tempted to use the gifts you give us to benefit ourselves at the expense of serving others:

People: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

Leader: When we are tempted to use sensational means to increase people's faith, rather than being guided by the humility of Christ:

People: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

Leader: When we are tempted to use bribery to influence and control people:

People: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

Leader: When we are tempted to manipulate you, O God, to satisfy our own needs:

People: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

(Pause for silent confession.)

Leader: Merciful God, save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

People: Forgive us our sins and fill us with the joy and peace of your salvation. So strengthen us with your Spirit during this Lenten season that we put our whole trust in you as confidently as Jesus did. This we pray in his name. Amen.

Moira Laidlaw, adapt.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Inspired by Psalm 32

Leader: Happy are those whose wrongs are forgiven, who sin is no longer held against them.

People: We acknowledged our sin to God, and God forgave the guilt of our sin.

Leader: The faithful offer their prayers to the Lord, who is a hiding place from trouble.

People: We are glad in the Lord and rejoice, for the Lord has cleansed us from sin!

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Dr. Edwards

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

CHORAL ADORATION: "What Wondrous Love," Hymn 200, verse 1

WONDROUS LOVE

GOSPEL LESSON:

Matthew 4:1-11

Ms. Meadows

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

SUNG RESPONSE:

"Write These Words"

John S. Wilson

Write these words in our hearts, we beseech you, O God.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

Dr. Grammer

* OFFERTORY HYMN 179: "Forty Days and Forty Nights"

HEINLEIN

(Children in grades K-5 are invited to depart for Children's Church during the singing of this hymn.)

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Dr. Edwards

OFFERTORY

Mr. Ross

* DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,**

ANTHEM: "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"arr. Mark Schweizer, after Faure's *Pavane*

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray, teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay. As thou with Satan didst contend and didst the vict'ry win, give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin. As thou didst hunger bear and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord, to die to self, and chiefly live by thy most holy Word. Through these days of penitence, and through thy Passontide, yea, with us in life and death, Jesus with us abide. Abide with us, that so, this life of suff'ring overpast, an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last!

*C. F. Hernaman***SERMON:****"The Need for Change"**

Dr. Grammer

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who became embodied and taught us how to live. We believe in a God who forgives us when we give in to temptations. We believe in a God who reaches across the chasms to reconcile with us. We believe, and we trust, that we do not journey alone.

CALL TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP*** RECESSIONAL HYMN 627: "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"**

SOJOURNER

*(Persons desiring membership in our church are invited to come forward during the singing of this hymn.)**** BENEDICTION**

Dr. Grammer

*** SUNG RESPONSE**From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healy Willan, adapt.**Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.***** POSTLUDE**

Mr. Ross

THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Libby Grammer
Senior Minister

Elizabeth Edwards
Associate Minister

James Mauk
Minister of Music

Lisa Meadows
Minister to Children

Zack Ross
Organist

Gus Haley
Acolyte

The Lakeside Chancel Choir

Lakeside Website: lakesidechurchrmt.org*Music reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-718366. All rights reserved.*

Today is the First Sunday in Lent. Lent is the season in which we anticipate Jesus' final trip to Jerusalem and the self-giving nature of love shown in his passion and death. The season begins with Ash Wednesday and extends for forty days through Saturday of Holy Week. Sundays are excluded from Lent, being regarded as feast days in the midst of the forty-day fast. Lent is a strongly penitential season. The color of the season is purple, used to indicate royalty and suffering alike, a reminder of Christ's kingship and the suffering he endured for us all. Throughout Lent we undertake a journey of self-discovery leading to repentance and renewal.

Lenten Series: Spiritual Exercise for the Soul – Just as we care for our physical bodies through exercise or our minds through training, so too should we care for our souls through spiritual exercise. During Lent this year, let us push ourselves to reach beyond our own schedules and to-do lists and embrace this season of introspection to discern what God has in store for us as we allow God to renew us in preparation for the celebration of Easter Resurrection. On the altar are symbols of some of the classical disciplines that have guided the Christian faith: Bible study, prayer, worship, meditation, and service.

Restrooms, including a wheelchair-accessible family restroom, are located in the hallway behind the sanctuary. Please ask an usher if you need directions. **Childcare** is available in the preschool building. If you have a young child who becomes restless during worship, you are welcome to utilize our **Kids' Corner** in the back of the sanctuary by the audio booth. **Children's worship bags** are available in the narthex and have a variety of items that will help to make worship more meaningful for our children. Please return them to the narthex following worship. **Bibles and several large print hymnals** are available for your convenience and are located in the Prayer Room off the Narthex. Please ask an usher as you enter the sanctuary. **Wireless hearing aides** are available in the Prayer Room off the narthex. Please ask an usher to assist you with a set. You may return the hearing aid to the Prayer Room following worship. **We are grateful for our choral scholars**, Jackson Baldwin, Allison Benoit, Rebecca Blackwell, Esther Keller, and Jacob McCain, who enrich our music ministry in many ways. Choral Scholars and guest singers are supported by the **Gossett-Biggs Music Fund**. Anyone interested in supporting the fund is invited to designate a contribution.

Lakeside Fellowship and Ministry

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember the following persons who need our prayers and support:

The Carrollton of Nash, 7369 Hunter Hill Road (04)

Pat Judge, Room 614, Hospice Care

At Home

Janice Bobbitt (Chuck Taylor's sister), 4204 Whitehurst Dr, Wilmington 28409

Robyn Edwards Chapman (Jeannette Pittman's cousin)

Bob Davis (Dan Davis' brother), 427 McIver Street, Greenville, SC 29601

Michelle Costa Foster, 105 Gloucester Court (03)

Charlotte Gilliam, 3794 Loblolly Drive (04)

Ethel Hines, 125 Cobblestone Court (04)

Bill Jones (Dorrie Wright's brother)

C.B. Morris, 1930 Northern Boulevard (04)

Jeannette and Grady Pittman, 313 Englewood Drive (04)

Cornelia Singletary, 15 Weatherstone Drive (04)

Patricia Taylor (Napoleon Taylor's wife), 514 Hammond Street (04)

Our Members-at-Home

Chuck Daniel (Brenda and Dennis Culpepper's nephew)

Margaret Harper, Cottage #5209-101, Magnolia Glen, 5301 Creedmoor Road, Raleigh, NC 27612

Cody Richardson, 1518 Fountain Branch Road (03)

Keith Abbott, 3413 Brookview Drive (04)

To our Lakeside Friends,

Grady and I appreciated your cards, calls, and prayers in the weeks of our recovery. The food you shared was delicious. Grady and our entire family enjoyed your flavorful recipes. We love you and have missed you. We hope to be back in church soon.

Jeannette and Grady Pittman

ECUMENICAL LENTEN SERVICES

Join us each Wednesday at noon during the season of Lent for worship and lunch as Lakeside and our sister churches come together to journey toward the cross. Our first Lenten service will be held Wednesday, February 25, at First United Methodist Church with Becky Zartman Carpenter from Church of the Good Shepherd preaching.

LENTEN DEVOTIONS – SEND YOURS TODAY!

Following the theme of "Spiritual Exercise for the Soul," we would like your help in providing devotions to share with the congregation during the season of Lent. These devotions may be written reflections, poetry, quotes, music, art, and more. They may explore a particular spiritual discipline or practice that has been meaningful to you or may be helpful for others to develop spiritual exercises in their lives. Send your submissions to Elizabeth or the church office.

LAKESIDE LABYRINTH & PRAYER GARDEN

During these lengthening days of Lent, we hope you will take advantage of our beautiful Labyrinth & Prayer Garden for prayer and reflection. You will find prayer guides and Bibles in the literature stand beside the Labyrinth. Spend time walking in prayer and centering your soul this season. We are grateful for this gift from Trevor and Cam Graham that continues to bless and beautify Lakeside.

LAKESIDE YOUTH CASSEROLE SALE & YARD SALE

SATURDAY, MARCH 7 – 8:00 A.M. TO 12:00 NOON

Please sign up for food donations in the Narthex.

THIS WEEK AT LAKESIDE

Sunday, February 22: 1st Sunday in Lent

11:00 a.m. Worship, *Sanctuary*

11:20 a.m. Children's church

12:15 p.m. Diaconate, *Conference Room*

5:00 p.m. Preschool, Children, and Youth Activities, *Music & Youth Suites*

Tuesday, February 24

7:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study, *via Zoom*

Wednesday, February 25

11:00 a.m. Lakeside Endowment Committee, *via Teams*

12:00 p.m. Community Lenten Worship & Lunch, *First United Methodist Church*

6:00 p.m. Lakeside Ringers Rehearsal, *Music Suite*

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, *Music Suite*

7:00 p.m. Navigating GriefLand, *Parlor*

Thursday, February 26

3:30 p.m. VBS Planning Team, *Youth Suite*

Friday, February 27- Sunday, March 1

Youth Ski Trip

Sunday, March 1: 2nd Sunday in Lent

9:45 a.m. Growing Together Groups, *Education Building*

10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*

11:00 a.m. Worship, *Sanctuary*

12:15 p.m. Continue the Communion, *Papa Cibo's*

5:00 p.m. Preschool & Children's Activities, *Music & Youth Suites*

RESCHEDULED GET TO KNOW LAKESIDE LUNCHEON

Guests and new members: Join us on Sunday, March 8, at 12:15 p.m., in Robbins Hall for our Get to Know Lakeside Luncheon to learn more about Lakeside's ministries. Sign up by calling or emailing the church office or on our website.

THE WEEKLY LINK GOES ALL-VIRTUAL: WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

In order to save money in our annual ministry plan and be better stewards of the gifts you so generously provide to Lakeside each year, our staff and Administrative Council have approved a change to our publication of *The Link*.

Moving forward, our weekly *Link* publication will be transitioning to an email-only format. If you do not receive *The Link* via email right now and you have access to email, we need your most up-to-date email address so we can make sure you receive the weekly *Link* in your email inbox. We need these updated email addresses by the end of February. Please email or call the church office with your information. These changes will go into effect on March 1 so be sure to update us with your information before that date!