

Prayers of the People

Closing Song *God be the Glory* Praise Team

Lenten Devotionals and Gift Bag



Enclosed in the bulletin is a weekly devotional for Lent. Each devotional is adapted from *The Hardest Part* by Bowler et al. To enhance the weekly practice in the devotional, please pick up a gift bag from the table. Enclosed are the materials for the practice. Also, you will discover six Hershey kisses. Sundays in Lent are considered “little resurrections”. Therefore, in a season of reflection, each Sunday is sweet with grace.

Ashes on the Church Steps

Thank you to our church family and our community guests who participated in Ashes on the Church Steps. A common response to receiving the ashes was, “I needed that.”

Chaplain Dave Tafao, chaplain with SCLEAP, will be with us in worship on Sunday, March 16. He will share about the work of the SC Law Enforcement Assistance Program.

Committee of the Week

Our **Worship Team** coordinates the music, spoken word, and audiovisual components of worship. Of all the teams, this one embraces the weekly practice of rehearsal. Many thanks to Tammy, Lamonica, Dani, Eve, and Kyle for the hours of preparation they do in anticipation of leading worship.

For HSUMC’s worship service, go to YouTube and search Heyward St Church. View livestream or archived services.

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HEYWARD STREET UMC

www.heywardst.church

March 9, 2025

The First Sunday of Lent

Welcome

Call to Worship

based on Psalm 84

With ashes marked on our foreheads, we start this journey of a hundred (or so) small steps.

We glimpse the joys and sorrows of this world.

With hurts balanced on weary shoulders and worries creasing our faces, we walk this journey step by step.

We carry the sorrows of this world.

With hope tucked into pockets and sheltered within sacred places, we walk this journey step by step.

We cradle the joys of this world.

Blessed are we who put our strength in God,
who choose to share the joys and sorrows of this world. We bless the world.

Song *Soul on Fire* Praise Team

Scripture Luke 4:1-13 Pew Bible p 61

Receiving of the Offering

Sermon *Tempted Much?* Rev. Blom

Song *There was Jesus* Praise Team

Lenten Devotional for First Week of Lent

The Hardest Part: hurt we carry, hope we find (adapted)
K. Bowler, B. Thompson, A. Taylor, H. Durrett

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.”

Ephesians 2:8-10



Reflect

We often have no idea how to deal with the things we've done—or the things done to us. Enter grace. But what even is grace? And more importantly, how do we get some? John Wesley, a guy who started a church tradition called Methodism, called grace “free, undeserved favor.” In other words, it's like getting something good you didn't earn, but hey, no one's complaining. My friend Professor Willie Jennings says, “Grace is the ability to see through God's eyes for a moment.” When we give or receive grace, it is a chance for renewal. Grace is so full of love and kindness that when it touches our hearts, we can never be the same. We may not deserve it, but we get it anyway.

Respond

Mistakes happen— they're just part of being human. Maybe learn what you can, and then—here's the hard part—try to let the rest go. You deserve a little grace. Love is ready to fill the cracks, even the ones you made. Let it.

Practice ~ Hard and Soft

From your Lenten bag, remove the rock and cotton ball. Place them both in your pocket. When you encounter mistakes or cross words, your own or those of others, hold the rock and cotton ball in your palm and ask, “Is it a hard choice or is it a soft choice to give grace in this situation? What makes the choice to extend grace difficult? Easy?”

Blessing

Blessed are we, the graced.
We who don't deserve it.
Whose failures haunt us.
The things we said.
The things we left unsaid...
Despite our mistakes
we are graced.
Blessed are we who live here
In this mystery, this scandal,
of grace.



Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. “For Finding Grace for Others (and Ourselves)” in *The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days*.