

Prayers of the People

Closing Song *Hold to God's Unchanging Hand*



We welcome Chaplain Dave Tafaoa to our worship service. Chaplain Tafaoa has 35+ years of experience in law enforcement, retiring as a major from SLED. In addition, Chaplain Tafaoa completed his Certification for Public Safety Chaplaincy at Lenoir Rhyne and was ordained to ministry by his home church, Riverland Hills Baptist, in Irmo. Chaplain Tafaoa has served with SCLEAP since 2018. We are pleased to welcome Chaplain Tafaoa as he leads us in worship.

Lenten Devotionals and Gift Bag

Enclosed in the bulletin is a weekly devotional for Lent, 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.

Easter Lilies Are Coming!

To celebrate the joy of Easter, lilies will decorate our sanctuary. We invite you to sponsor lilies for \$18 each. Order forms will be available on March 30.



Finance Committee meets today at 11:35 am in Room 123.

Preschool Board meets Tuesday, March 18 at 5 pm on Zoom.

Committee of the Week

Our **Preschool Board** oversees the operation of Heyward St Preschool. The board makes recommendations for policy changes and monitors the financial status. Many thanks to Sandy, Brenda, John, Marlene, and Monica for gifting their time and expertise to this ministry.



HEYWARD STREET UMC

March 16, 2025

The Second Sunday of Lent

Welcome

Call to Worship

adapted Schuman

Lent calls us to daily reflection, open hearted grace, and vibrant vulnerability.

We choose to walk this path of Lent with gentle hearts and wise thoughts.

Lent calls us to see the world for what it is and to imagine what the world can be.

We choose to let the pain of brokenness penetrate our hearts so we can imagine a redeemed world.

Lent calls us to take up the cross of justice, mercy, and compassion and follow Jesus.

We choose to trust the one who bears it with us.

Lent calls us to journey with God.

Let us worship God, who walks with us every day.

Song *Power* Praise Team

Scripture Exodus 3:1-12 Pew Bible p 50

Receiving of the Offering

Sermon Who Am I that I Should Go? Rev. Tafaoa

Song *King of Kings* Praise Team

Devotional for Second Week of Lent

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

*“O God, you are my God;
early will I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh longs for you
in a dry and thirsty
land where there is no
water.”*

—PSALM 63:1 (NKJV)



Reflect

There's a long tradition of gospel blues songs dedicated to acknowledging our deep sadnesses. The ones too hard to name directly. Gospel singer Mahalia Jackson sings “Troubles of the World” (use qr code to listen) in a way that made one anonymous commentator say, “Sing this at my funeral, or I ain't comin'!” When we find ourselves in the unwelcome place of sadness, suffering, or drought, it might be time to sing the blues. Somehow, the combination of the words, chords, and rhythms becomes like water for our parched souls, allowing space for honesty and hope to co-exist.



Respond

Play the blues—or whatever style feels right for you. You might start with soulful classics or heartfelt tunes like “Just as I Am” or “Amazing Grace”. Or maybe you're drawn to contemplative music or artists like

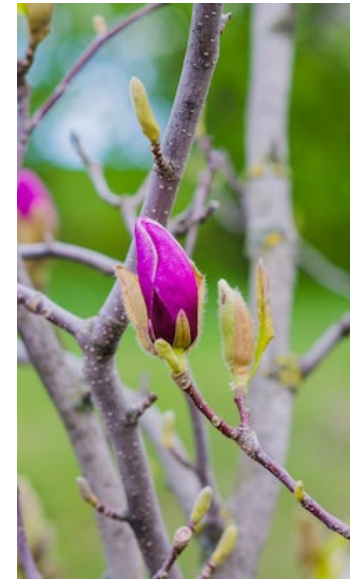
Wendell Kimbrough, who has beautifully set many Psalms to music.

Practice ~ Tears

From your Lenten bag, remove the tear drop shapes. Place them on your bedside table. As you prepare for the night's rest, ask yourself, “Where did I feel like singing the blues today? What places felt dry and lacking in satiation today?”

Blessing

*These days feel heavy and dark,
like hope packed up and left.
We cry: Where are the good things?
And honestly, where are the good people—
the sensible ones fighting for what matters?
Blessed are you,
who see the world as it is:
Blessed are you, worn down
by hard-earned cynicism.
May you grasp something
in the heaviness.
A glimmer of what could be,
and walk, step by step,
toward the possibility
that goodness exists.
Hope is an anchor dropped
into the future pulling you
forward, toward something
better— even if it doesn't
feel like it right now.*



Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. “For When You Need a Little Hope” in *The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days*. (New York: Convergent Books, 2023).