

**Communion Hymn**    *Amazing Grace*    UMH 378

**Closing Song**    *God Be the Glory*    Praise Team

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### Sponsor an Easter Lily

To celebrate the joy of Easter, lilies will decorate our sanctuary. We invite you to sponsor lilies for \$18 each. Please complete an order form including in honor or in memory. Include payment via check or pay online using dropdown sanctuary flowers. Deadline is April 13.



### Volunteers Needed for Welcome Table



Washington St UMC hosts The Welcome Table on Monday, April 21. This luncheon is held the Sunday after Easter for those in our community with food insecurity. Volunteers are needed to serve plates and beverages from 11:15 am to 12:30 pm. Sign up using QR code.

**Carolina Jazz Society Concert** hosts their monthly concert this afternoon from 2:30-5:00 pm in the fellowship hall. Enjoying music is an engaging way to celebrate Spring!

### HSUMC Received a Grant!

Shandon Neighborhood awarded us a grant to support supply costs for a Community Ice Cream Social. Details about the event are forthcoming.



### Committee of the Week

Our **Trustees** coordinate the maintenance and updates for our grounds and facility. Many thanks to Karen, Monica, Audrey, Dani, Joe, John, Lee, and Marlene for gifting their time and expertise to this committee. Trustees meet today in Room 123



# HEYWARD STREET UMC

April 6, 2025

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

### Pre-Worship

Think about a scent that connects personally and positively with you. Whether it is lavender from your favorite soap or the perfume your grandmother wore, call this scent to you in this space. What feelings do this scent evoke?

### Welcome

### Opening Prayer

**Song**                    *Free Amen*                    Praise Team

**Scripture**            John 12:1-8                    Pew Bible p 106

**Sermon**                    Scented Love                    Rev. Blom

**Song**                    *Love of God*                    Praise Team

### Prayers of the People

### Words of Institution

All are invited to the table. Please come down center aisle and return via window aisle. If desired, bring a prayer request or an offering to place in the offering plate.

### Communion

## Devotional for Fifth Week of Lent

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

*“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.” —PSALM 139:14-15 (NIV)*



### Reflect

Aging, I think, is a grand lesson in realizing you are certain about less and less. Instead of more answers, I end up with more questions. God, why did you make mosquitoes? Mirror, mirror, on the wall, how did that happen? Why do the years seem short and the minutes long? When do I start taking my own good advice—sooner? When will I ever heal? But what is becoming clearer and clearer is God’s absurdly wonderful love. God’s face is turned toward me in particular—and to you in particular—with a tenderness that melts hearts. It is a love that never ceases. It isn’t tied to us having all the right answers or right behaviors or right life. It is just a love overflowing for us all.

### Practice ~ Scented Love

Light a candle or add oil to a diffuser. Call to mind the names of people you love. Offer words of thanks to God for these beloveds.

### Blessing

*It can take a while to see it, clouded as these days often are with a vague sense of unease, a gradual dawning to the awareness that what is needed most is love. Love for the specific, particular person you are right here, right now. (And though it might feel vulnerable to admit it, aren’t we all at the center of our own stories? As heroes, villains, winners, losers, or whatever fits the plot of the day?) Let the story rewind, back to the beginning, to the moment eyes first opened and, newborn, you came into this world wholly loved. Loved not for anything you had done, but simply because. Even now, when the world feels blurry, love remains. And that is life itself. May you be reminded again: how the world spins, the winds change, the oceans churn, and not a single fact tells a different story than this: you are loved.*



Kate Bowler. Adapted from “For Feelings God’s Love” in *Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day: Daily Meditations for the Ups, Downs, and In-Betweens*. Convergent Books, 2024