

March 26, 2023

Fifth Sunday in Lent



The purpose of Groce United Methodist Church is to build the family of God through praising God, bringing others to Christ, teaching the faith, strengthening the fellowship, and sending forth in service.

Groce United Methodist Church
954 Tunnel Road
Asheville, NC, 28805
(828) 298-7647
Fax: (828) 299-8780
Email: gumcadmin@groceumc.org
Website: www.groceumc.org

W. Gerald Davis - Pastor
Kevin Bryant - Music Director/Organist
Debbie Ross - Handbell Director
Jennifer Terbeek - Administrator
Veronica Bagwell - Secretary

Sunday Worship Celebration

March 26, 2023

*** Where indicated, stand if you are able.**

CHIMES OF THE HOLY TRINITY

PRELUDE

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"
David Cherwien

*** WELCOME / CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Welcome pilgrims on the way to the cross.

All: We are learning to follow Jesus.

Leader: The journey is long, and the burden of our sins and struggles feels so heavy.

All: Yet we will hope in God because with God, there is steadfast love.

Leader: All around us, we witness neighbors and communities who are lifeless, despairing that they could ever be revived.

All: Yet God tells us that to come back to life, we must come together.

Leader: Year after year of change and struggle have taken their toll - how can anyone bring forth life when we feel so parched and tired?

All: Yet God meets the lifeless with the breath of life, reviving us again to worship and follow God's way.

Leader: Pilgrims on the way, come let us worship God!

All: We come to worship God as we learn to live inside out! AMEN.

*** OPENING HYMN 384**

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we confess that we are frightened by death. We have experienced the loss of loved ones and have heard, all too often, of the horrible losses sustained by the young people who live in lands of warfare and strife. In this scripture today we encounter Lazarus and his family. They, too, long for Lazarus to be alive again. Jesus' power to resurrect Lazarus confuses us. We long for that type of healing for our loved ones. And so, when their bodies cannot be healed and they die, we slip away from our faith, proclaiming that it is a nice story. Give us courage to face our fear. Give us awareness that you have offered to all those who have gone before us, a place in your kingdom. Help us move away from the prison of death to the light of eternal life and hope. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Though darkness and death appear all around, there is the comforting healing light of God's love shining on you and in you. Feel the warmth of the presence of God and let go of your fear, for God is with you. **AMEN.**

SONG OF PRAISE TFWS 2162

"Grace Alone"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

SCRIPTURE

John 11: 25-27, 32-37

ANTHEM

"Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed"

Chancel Choir

Mary McDonald

Claire Gerhardt - Violin

SERMON

"A Story of Grief - And Hope"

SPECIAL MUSIC

"The Quiet Journey"

Thomas Keesecker

* DOXOLOGY

* CLOSING HYMN TFWS 2151

"I'm so Glad Jesus Lifted Me

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

"Benedictus"

Claire Gerhardt - Violin

William Lloyd Webber

SENDING FORTH

CHIMES OF THE HOLY TRINITY

*Our service of worship has ended.
Now our worship through service begins.*

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Announcements

The Flowers on the Altar - are dedicated to the Glory of God and given by **Pat Leonard and Jerry Kirschner** in celebration of their marriage.

Sunday Ushers - Thank you to our ushers! (9:00am) **Jane Williams** (11:00am) **Bob Barcafer, Mike Lamb, John Smith**

Groce Family Meeting - There will be a Q & A Groce Family Meeting **today, March 26, from 10-11am** in the Sanctuary. The meeting will be facilitated by True Morse and everyone is welcome (including non-members). This will mark the first quarterly meeting of the year.

Youth - will meet **today, March 26, at 5pm** in Asbury Hall.

Easter Candy/Egg Donations - We are collecting candy and Easter eggs for our annual **Spring Fling (April 8, 1pm-3pm)!** Please **do not donate any candy with nuts or chocolate** (tends to melt in the sun). Also, please make sure the candy is **individually wrapped**. Lets make this year's Spring Fling one for the books!

Worship/Witness - We are in need of people to serve on weekly visitation teams one Sunday of each month as well as people to serve as greeters. Please contact Laura Jones: **(928) 279-0506** or the church office to join or for more information.

Ringers Needed! - The Ringing God's Praise Handbell Choir is looking for people to join their praise through music! Contact Debbie Ross for more information: **(828) 424-1360**.

Pickleball - Come and learn the fastest growing sport in the country! Join the Groce Pickleball Players on **Wednesdays at 6pm** in Asbury Hall or contact **Jerry Kirschner** for more information: **(828) 777-8971**

Welcome Table - Come on out **every Thursday from 5 to 6:30pm** for a free meal and loving atmosphere as we feed our community with open hearts and helping hands!

Music Notes - Lent is a special season in the life of the church. It's a time of reflection and exploring our Christian walk. The music during Lent also follows this description of being meditative, reflective, and tranquil. The music in the church during this time is not as bright and grand as it is in other times during the church year. There are no alleluias, and the music in following with this mood is often dissonant and written in minor keys. The Postludes become voluntaries during Lent, and also follow this pattern. They are not big organ toccatas, improvisations, etc. that are the norm for most of the church year. My hope for each of you is that Lent will be a beautiful, reflective time in your life as we walk through the passion of the season together in anticipation of the Easter resurrection.

Services For **HOLY WEEK**

All Services will be held at Beverly Hills Baptist Church
777 Tunnel Rd, Asheville, NC, 28805
Noon - 12:30pm

DATES

Monday, April 3

Tuesday, April 4

Wednesday, April 5

Thursday, April 6

Friday, April 7*

CHURCH IN CHARGE

Groce United Methodist

St. John's Episcopal

Bethesda United Methodist

Land of Sky UCC

Beverly Hills Baptist*

***THERE WILL BE A LUNCH SERVED BY BEVERLY HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON FRIDAY AFTER THE SERVICE.**

GROCE UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH INVITES YOU TO OUR

LENT & HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Join us as we share in the passion of
Christ through worship and song.



April 2 ~ 9

PALM SUNDAY

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Service of Word and Table
7:00pm

GOOD FRIDAY

Musical Tenebrae Service
7:00pm

SATURDAY

Egg Hunt & Spring Fling
1-3pm

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunrise Service
7:00am

Outdoor Service
9:00am

Light Breakfast
9:45am

Worship Service
11:00am

