

THE MINISTRY

Dr. Delceda Walker,
Ministry Coordinator

Linnell Baker

Exhorter Odessa Banks

Alicia M. Cotton

Willie Felton

Archie Ferguson

Dr. Vandelon Holland

Rev. Kennetra Irby-Brackett

J. Birice Packer

Joyce Pink

Exhorter Maria Scruggs

Rev. Dr. Kevin Wardlaw

Rev. Nevada Wardlaw

Pastor Jamesina Wilburn

Jimmie Wright

Patricia Wright

The Lenten Committee

This guide was compiled and produced by Joyce Pink, Chair,

and Co-chairs Alicia M. Cotton,

Archie Ferguson, Jimmie Wright

and Dr. Delceda Walker

“Good morning! Welcome to the PrayerLine.”

(605) 313-6236
Access Code
292841#


Year-Round
6:00 to 6:20 AM

Lenten
Scripture Readings
5:55 AM

Embracing

Lent

A Time to Fast & Pray



A Guide From the PrayerLine & Meditation Ministry
Historic Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
Dr. Delceda Walker, Ministry Coordinator | Rev. Kenneth F. Irby, Pastor

A MESSAGE FROM DR. DELL

Faith and Courage in 2021

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. **Hebrews 11:1**

Things hoped for include love, peace, joy, unity, Holy Ghost power and intimacy with our God.

Each year at this time since 2014, a faithful few commit themselves to a season of reflection, repentance, self-denial, affirmation of faith and trust in God's omnipotence and His ability to do all things.



Ash Wednesday beckons us into this Lenten Season. It is a time to look at what the Lord has done and focus on his will for tomorrow.

This season, we focus on being strong and courageous to tackle the days ahead.

Joshua 1:9 *Have I not commanded you to be strong and courageous? Do not be terrified; don't be discouraged, for the Lord Your God will be with you wherever you go.*

The problems, heartache, struggles of last year seem to fade when we think of getting a chance of a new start; a new opportunity to get it right.

We can look forward to a new era with God on our side as we cast our cares upon Him. **(First Peter 5:7)** We must listen to Him speak.

We have wandered away from the Lord and His will for our lives. But He has promised never to leave or forsake us.

So with prayer, repentance, faith and expectant answers to prayer, let's move forward in this season of Lent with a renewed commitment to love the Lord with all of our heart, soul and mind, and love our neighbor as ourselves.

Ask the Lord to give us courage, strength and faith in Him to face the days ahead. And let's bless the name of the Lord for His faithfulness.

Moving On In His Service,

Delceda "Dr. Dell" Walker

Beyond the 40 days

Why Stop a Good Thing?



Whatever forms of prayer or fasting you took up throughout Lent, discern what you can continue beyond the season. The resolve and sacrifices we observe should not just be limited to the 40 days of Lent.

Lent is an intentional time of prayer and fasting. While we don't keep up the same rigor throughout the rest of the year, we can keep the penitential spirit going through ongoing observation of the Lenten promises.

We shouldn't abandon good practices because a designated period of testing or observing these good practices has come to an end.

We still must fast and pray. We still need to nourish ourselves with the Holy Scriptures. We must continue to wage warfare against things that are always threatening to engulf us. We need to deepen our love for Christ so that it surpasses any other commitment based on love in our lives.

Let us take the "best of Lent" and continue with it throughout the days of our lives.

LENTEN DISHES

Quick and Easy Options

Pronto Vegetarian Peppers

INGREDIENTS

- 2 large sweet red peppers
- 1 cup canned stewed tomatoes
- 1/3 cup instant brown rice
- 2 tablespoons hot water
- 3/4 cup canned kidney beans, rinsed and drained
- 1/2 cup frozen corn, thawed
- 2 green onions, thinly sliced
- 1/8 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 1/2 cup shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese
- 1 tablespoon grated Parmesan cheese



DIRECTIONS

Cut peppers in half lengthwise; remove seeds. Place peppers in an ungreased shallow microwave-safe dish. Cover and microwave on high until tender, 3-4 minutes.

Combine the tomatoes, rice and water in a small microwave-safe bowl. Cover and microwave on high until rice is tender, 5-6 minutes. Stir in the beans, corn, onions and pepper flakes; spoon into peppers.

Sprinkle with cheeses. Microwave, uncovered, until heated through, 3-4 minutes.

3-Ingredient Coconut Cookies

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup shredded coconut
- 1/2 cups, plus 2 tbs oats
- 2 ripe bananas, peeled and sliced

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Put coconut and oats in a food processor

and run until they look like crumbs.

Add bananas and pulse to a paste.

Line an oven tray with greaseproof paper. Using two tablespoons, form cookies on the tray.

Bake for 20 minutes. Keep a close look at them at the end of the baking.

Let the cookies cool on a cooling rack.

Fasting and Feasting

Embrace the Journey

We look to encourage your steps on this 2021 Lenten Season journey, which begins on Ash Wednesday and takes us through the 46 days toward Resurrection Sunday. We will journey together through 40 days of “fasting” and six Sundays of “feasting.”

A Lenten Fast has two parts. A fast is about self-denial, repentance, and (secondly) seeking the Lord for direction on this journey. The fasting days are designed for us to deny ourselves of God’s abundant daily gifts in order to focus

more fully on God’s character. A fast could take the form of denying yourself something (social media, eating certain foods, coffee, alcohol, stopping critical speech, etc.). The purpose of the fast is to use the time normally spent doing this other thing to focus on the character of God with a view toward Resurrection Sunday. **Psalm 25:4-5** is a good place to start in meditation during your time of fasting.

On Sundays, you can break the fast and celebrate a time of feasting on God’s Word and fellowship with each other.

This booklet takes on different focuses during the six weeks of Lent. There is also space to record your thoughts and reflections so that you can track your journey.

Take time to embrace this season of trusting the one who walks with us during times of plenty and times of sorrow.

DATE	OBSERVANCE
February 17	Ash Wednesday
March 28-April 3	Holy Week
March 28	Palm Sunday (Jesus enters Jerusalem)
April 1	Maundy Thursday (Washing of Feet and Last Supper)
April 2	Good Friday (Crucifixion)
April 3	Holy Saturday (Body lies in tomb)
April 4	Resurrection Sunday

WEEK 1

The Desert



By **Mark Altrogge**
Pastor, Singer, Songwriter

God leads every believer into the desert at one time or another

Well, maybe not every believer. I can't give you a Bible verse that says that. But in over 30 years of pastoring, I'd say God leads most believers into the desert at one time or another.

Moses spent 40 years in the desert before God raised him up to lead Israel out of Egypt. As soon as God delivered Israel from bondage in Egypt, he took them into the desert. David did a lot of desert time hiding out from Saul before God made him king. And the Spirit drove Jesus into the desert after his baptism for 40 days.

Lots of circumstances can be “deserts”

A prolonged sickness can be a desert. Moving to a new place or joining a new church where you don't know anyone can be one. Being stuck in a miserable or boring job instead of the fulfilling career you had hoped for can be a desert. A

LENTEN DISHES

It's What's for Dinner

Lentil Vegetable Soup

This soup lasts in the refrigerator 3-4 days.

INGREDIENTS

6 cups vegetable broth
1 cup diced tomatoes
8 oz mushrooms, sliced
1 cup carrots, sliced
1 cup celery, sliced
1 cup onion, sliced
1 cup chickpeas, rinsed and drained
1/2 cup lentils
3 cups fresh spinach, chopped
Shredded parmesan cheese, optional



DIRECTIONS

Add all ingredients to a large pot. Bring to a boil, then simmer on low-medium heat for 1 hour or until vegetables are tender.

Add spinach before serving. It will wilt in the hot soup. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese, if desired.

Baked Fish

INGREDIENTS

Julienned vegetables (optional)
¾ cup Hidden Valley Original Ranch Dressing
6 (about 8 ounces each) boneless fish fillets
(such as scrod, flounder, or other mild, white fish)

DIRECTIONS

Arrange fish fillets in a large, oiled baking pan. Spread each fillet with 2 tablespoons dressing. Bake at 375°F for 10 to 20 minutes until fish is opaque and flakes easily when tested with a fork. Finish under broiler to brown the top.

Serve on julienned vegetables, if desired.



SELF-DENIAL

When ‘No’ Means ‘More’

Lent is a special time of reflection and faith, practiced in prayer and by the act of giving up something. That “something” depends on the person observing Lent, with the main guidelines being that it has to be something that’s challenging to give up during this period. (In other words, giving up chores wouldn’t fit the bill.)

For most people, the sacrifice is food — in varying amounts or ingredients — or giving up something they love and devoting that time instead to reflecting on God and asking for forgiveness.

Here are a few sacrifices when NO time for that means MORE time for God.

Social Media — In 2019, teens and young adults in the U.S. were found to clock up to a minimum of 7.5 hours of screen time a day on average on social media. Older adults are likely to have less. Why not devote some of those hours to Bible reading?

Cellphone use — Can you disconnect at that time of the day (especially on the weekend) when phone calls never seem to end?

TV — If it’s become a way to escape the day or if it’s taken place of quality time spent with God, your family, your friends it really needs to go. Are the shows you’re watching hindering your relationship with God or not?

Your morning latte and all forms of caffeine — Save the money and donate it to a specific fund at your church.

My Lenten Offering			Lent Self-Denial		
Ash Wednesday \$14	Thursday \$10	Friday \$14	Saturday \$5.00	4th Monday of Lent \$5.75	Tuesday \$6.00
Saturday \$1.00	1st Monday of Lent \$1.25	Tuesday \$1.50	Wednesday \$6.25	Thursday \$6.50	Friday \$6.75
Wednesday \$1.75	Thursday \$2.00	Friday \$2.25	Saturday \$7.00	6th Monday of Lent \$7.25	Tuesday \$7.50
Saturday \$2.50	2nd Monday of Lent \$2.75	Tuesday \$3.00	Wednesday \$7.75	Thursday \$8.00	Friday \$8.25
Wednesday \$3.25	Thursday \$3.50	Friday \$3.75	Saturday \$8.50	8th Monday of Lent \$8.75	Tuesday \$9.00
Saturday \$4.00	3rd Monday of Lent \$4.25	Tuesday \$4.50	Wednesday \$9.25	Maundy Thursday \$9.50	
Wednesday \$4.75	Thursday \$5.00	Friday \$5.25	Good Friday \$9.75	Holy Saturday \$10.00	

©2019 by the Diocese of Albany
Printed by the Diocese of Albany

Do you remember these? The purpose?
Who gave them out?

rebellious child or an unbelieving spouse can be a desert.

When we’re in the desert, it can feel like God’s not doing anything. Or he’s set us aside. But God is always at work. He uses desert experiences in many ways, as we see in Dt. 8:2-6:

Deserts humble us

And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you (v 2)

Deserts reveal what is in our hearts

Testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. (v 2)

Deserts teach us to live by God’s Word

And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that



Remembering Your “Desert Experience”

WEEK 2

Trust Me



**By Rev. Kenneth F. Irby
Pastor of Historic Bethel AMEC**



Living a **trusting life** is pretty rare these days. One of the basic needs in human existence — the thing we call life — is security. People will do most anything to feel secure in the physical and yet, we are greatly challenged in our willingness to trust GOD’s heart when we can not trace his hand.

Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him.

Job 13:15 NKJV

The season of Lent is historically thought of as a time of reflection and repentance. Job’s “trust verse” is widely known as a poignant affirmation of his trust in Yahweh.

Trust me, the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent revealing events of this year have truly tested our faith.

so dearly loves, but lo sacrifice brings more delight than indulgence. We lay hold of the crown of thorns, pale with terror; our hands tremble as we raise it to our heads. In that little space we have many times resolved to throw it away; but somehow we place it shuddering upon our heads; and lo! its thorns are gone, and there are flowers there instead. We try to have fellowship with Christ in His Passion; we take up the Cross; we court pain, in loving sympathy with Him; but lo! He is always beforehand with us. He has borne all pain Himself; He has taken away the sting of it; He has drained out the power of all; these mortifications do but give us joy and peace.

Jesus similarly told his disciples to not let fasting impact them in a negative way, but to approach it in a spirit of joy.

“When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to others to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.” **(Matthew 6:16-18)**

In the end, Lent is a beautiful time for the soul and opens-up a pathway to spiritual renewal. Our experience of Lent will greatly depend on the way we look at it. If we see it as a time of privation, we will likely not last the whole of Lent. However, if we see it as a way to draw closer to Jesus, any sacrifice we do will be worth it and we will approach it with joy.

FINDING TIME TO RENEW

1. **Quiet time:** Jesus withdrew by himself **(Mark 1:35)** to pray and spend time with his Father. We need that quiet time as well.
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Renewal



By Philip Kosloski
Author and Blogger

Lent is looked down upon by some Christians and seen as a painful season to endure. It can be tempting to think of it as a season where we are “forced” to give up something that we enjoy. However, this misses the fact that Lent is meant to be a time of spiritual renewal and we are challenged to approach it with joy.

Instead of approaching Lent in a negative way, we are invited to view it in the positive, as a season where we can deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ and accompany him on his fateful journey to Jerusalem.

If we truly love Jesus, shouldn't this be exciting? Typically we are overjoyed when we can spend more time with our spouse or loved one. Shouldn't we have the same feeling about Jesus?

It is true that this pathway to Jerusalem is often filled with difficulties and suffering, but these privations are only stepping-stones to reach a place of serenity and peace.

The way is long, and sometimes hard and dreary; but as we go we forget it all, and break forth into singing. It is hard to give up and leave behind what nature

There is no denying the debilitating and disproportionate impact of structural racism, inequity and poverty in our society. Lemme' say — without fear of contradiction, that this Lent season is like none other in our lifetime.

The Lenten season is classically the period leading up to Resurrection Sunday. Christian congregations, Protestant and Catholic, immerse themselves in studying the prophecy and actions of Jesus during Holy Week, along the Road to Calvary's Cross during this time.

And yes, there are indeed pastel painted events of festive attire, plays, brunches, baskets, teas and traditions.

Trust me, this year as we face our crucible or crises, we must rethink our trust and engage the sacred space of the Black Church and its hope, grace and resilience as our transforming, transcendent power.

Trust me, all too many have learned the cruel lesson that your money, possessions, status, knowledge, associations and relationships will fail and will not sustain in times like these.

What have you been trusting as your security? And just how lasting is it?

Only GOD can grant lasting security.

I propose that now might be a fantastic time for a “Lenten Rethink,” maybe even more of a remix focusing Jesus' teaching **Matthew 6:19-21** which states:

19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Lent can be, if allowed to be, a time recommitment and reaffirmation in your spiritual quest and journey for everlasting security.

With a secure foundation in the LORD, any feeling of insecurity will not undermine you.

Just as this Lenten summons us to recall the 40 days that Jesus was tempted in the wilderness before launching his public ministry. **Matthew 4:1-11**

Fasting makes a powerful statement of commitment to GOD, offering a sense of hopefulness. Job, like disciples of Jesus, trustingly affirmed that GOD is in control and that all things are working for our good. GOD's love, grace and salvation are blessings from above for all that only believe.

Trust me, as GOD be with me, we worry not about who or what is against us.

WEEK 3
Prayer

**By Alicia M. Cotton
 PrayerLine &
 Meditation Leader**

Lord, teach us to pray. During the recent Sacred Assembly of the 11th Episcopal District under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Mark Crutcher, director of Evangelism 11th District, there were prayers from the clergy and various component members each Sunday in January. There were extemporaneous prayers, read prayers, eloquent, spirit-filled and topic-specific prayers. Each person in their own talked with God bringing their word offering on behalf of others.

Bishop A.J. Richardson, presiding prelate, commented on one occasion about the words, works and worth of prayer. I began to ponder his commentary. The comments focused on what was the intent or exact statements of the person praying in church. Did they say the words of prayer, the works of prayer or the worth of prayer? I believe they all are relevant to us and meaningful for the person praying.

I offer my opinion related to the words, works, and worth of prayer. Let us first explore the *words of prayer*. There are many well known prayers besides the Lord's Prayer. We have the child's prayer, Serenity Prayer, the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, and the Grace Prayer as a few examples. Each with words that reach heaven simply stated from a believer expressing a need, desire, or a praise. Words mean something. There is power in our words. The words we offer our God whether personal or as in intercessor, in prayer, should carry significant weight.



Disciples of Historic Bethel gather meet at the chancel rail during the Ash Wednesday service in 2019.



not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength. (Nehemiah 8:10 NIV)”

The joy of God is centered in human history in Jesus Christ. Joy begins with Jesus and ends with Jesus. At the birth of Jesus, the angel announced to the shepherds, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:10, 11 KJV)”

Not only did the birth of Jesus bring joy to the world but his life, death and resurrection brings greater joy for those who believe. God’s plan was finished and complete as the scripture assert, “who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2 NIV)”

As Christians, we are indwelt with the Holy Spirit. Joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit. Joy is not something you can create by your own efforts. Joy is a state of delight, well-being, and an inner gladness. As we face difficult times in life, we receive help by our Advocate. The divine writings of the Apostle Peter give us inspiration: “⁶In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy. (1 Peter 1:6, 8 NIV)”

This Lenten season and beyond, experience the joy of Jesus by letting Christ be in the center of your crisis. You must take it by faith and trust in the promises of God. We know “weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. (Psalm 30:5)” Therefore, I no longer miss those activities as much because of my deeper relationship with Christ, I have found a greater joy in the Lord. To God be the glory!



What brings you joy?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

WEEK 5

Joy



By Dr. Vandelon Holland
PrayerLine & Meditation Leader



Last year, 2020, was like no other. It was an unprecedented year filled with confusion, chaos and calamity due to a global pandemic (COVID-19), an economic downturn, political upheaval, social & racial unrest. For me, it was a year of self reflection. The pleasures of life, I enjoyed were no more. No more sweet embrace (hugs & kisses) from my young nephews, who would visit for the summer. No more Saturday morning breakfast at a local restaurant with my dad discussing the politics of the day and the bible. No more gathering of alumnus and friends at the annual FAMU homecoming football game. Indeed, these activities brought happiness but last year, they quickly vanished.

Of course, being human, the sudden lifestyle change could lead to grief, loneliness, depression and even despair. So, how do we find joy in the midst of suffering, sickness and sorrow? The answer is Jesus Christ. The scripture declare, “Do

You are talking to a Holy God. Reverence, sincerity, and integrity should lead the way. You are talking to a Holy God who knows our thoughts and every hair on our head. This is time you have set aside to spend time with God, and you are bidding for his undivided attention. Words matter to God. And because we have the power of life and death in our tongue, they must matter to us. Words can change a situation and a life. God gave us words that can become songs. Other creatures make sounds, but God allow humans to have words! Therefore, choose them carefully in your prayer time.

What are the works of prayer? The Scriptures teach us that the prayers of righteous availeth much. The works of prayer is to turn around some situations, to protect us from issues, to move us toward salvation, to allow us to release the concerns to a waiting God the Father, Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter. There have been many testimonies where prayers have been made concerning an individual or circumstance and miraculously the person felt the prayer and acted in a manner that was life saving or avoided unpleasant outcomes that had the prayer not been offered and responded to in the right manner only God knows what the outcome might have been. Again, my opinion is based on personal experiences or that of hearing others. Therefore, prayer works when combined with faith and action.

What is prayer worth to you as a believer? Prayer is a priceless gift. In prayer we release and receive. We release our thoughts, desires, concerns, frustrations, anger and so much more and in return we receive peace, understanding, direction, mercy, and love. The more we pray the better our prayers become. We shift from God being the grantor of gifts and things in prayer to God being praised for who He is and what He means to the believer.

In this Lenten Season when we make an extra effort to fast and pray in anticipation of celebrating the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, remember the words, works, and worth of prayer communicate with our God, sharing personal time in His loving presence knowing that He will conduct the work of the prayer and that it is worth every minute we give to Him in prayer.

Be blessed in this Lenten season we have come through a difficult year and yet we are still here. All praises, honor, and Glory to God.

Lord, teach us to pray.

WEEK 4

The Color Purple



I've loved the color purple since I can remember. I use purple ink. I favored this color before my fandom of singer/songwriter Prince or the purchase of Alice Walker's book (which I read over two days). I came upon this column by Rev. Todd Weir in 2015, and this seems to be the perfect time to share it with you. Enjoy. — *Joyce Pink, PrayerLine & Meditation Leader*

By Rev. Todd Weir
First Churches of Northampton

Celie would not wear purple. In Alice Walker's prize winning novel "The Color Purple," Celie did not view herself worthy of a color often associated with wealth, royalty and piety. Purple's legacy goes at least as far back as Moses, who sent for purple cloth to make the curtains of the Tabernacle. Tyrian purple was the Roman imperial color, worn by emperors, priests, governors and generals. Purple togas were the Gucci of the Mediterranean elite. The great expense was due to the intricate process of harvesting the glands of thousands of tiny murex snails and soaking them in the sun till the exact color emerged to dye the cloth. A modern chemist duplicating the ancient process used 10,000 snails to create enough dye for a handkerchief, at the cost of nearly \$4,000. Purple was exclusive by nature, out of the reach of all but the elite to whom homage was due. Celie has had much company in not wearing purple.

SELF-DENIAL

Fasting for Spiritual Reasons

Fasting is essentially giving up food (or something else) for a period of time in order to focus your thoughts on God. While fasting, many people read the Bible, pray or worship. Simply going without food because it is not available or because of medical reasons is not biblical fasting. There must be a spiritual motivation to qualify a fast as Scriptural. Spend the time that you would normally use for meals to pray and seek the Lord.

Below is a modified fast and other ideas as well.

1st SEVEN DAYS Drink water and juice only. Eat fruits, vegetables, meatless soups and Jell-O only. Meals may include a sweet potato as a vegetable.

2nd SEVEN DAYS Drink water, juices, tea, coffee (nondairy creamer) and ginger ale. Eat fruits, vegetables, chicken or turkey only when added to soups. Garden salad and Jell-O. Meals may include a sweet potato.

3rd SEVEN DAYS Drink water, juices, tea, coffee (with nondairy creamer), ginger ale and hot chocolate. Chicken or turkey only when added to soups. Garden salad, baked or broiled fish and Jell-O. Meals may include a sweet potato.

REMAINING DAYS Continue the third seven-day plan.

SUNDAYS This day is not included in the days of Lent and are therefore fast-free if desired.

ALTERNATE PLAN No bread, meat, dairy, added sugar or sweets for 21 days.

ONE MEAL A DAY Almost everyone can fast for one meal or from certain foods. You can deny yourself coffee, sweets, soda, fast food, snack foods and junk food. Those things aren't good for your body anyway. And if you can't do a strict fast because of your age or health, choose instead to give up some of your favorite foods. You could also fast one meal a day and drink a veggie juice instead.

More on Fasting

Not all fasts focus on food,
See Page 20

Time-saving recipes,
See Pages 21 & 22

Daily Scripture Readings: March 28 – April 3 Holy Week

All readings are adapted from the Book of Common Prayer

Date	Psalms	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Sun Mar 28	am: 24, 29 pm: 103	am: Zech 9:9-12 pm: Zech 12:9-13:9	1 Tim 6:12-16	Matt 21:12-17
Mon Mar 29	am: 51 pm: 69:1-23	Jer 12:1-16	Phil 3:1-14	John 12:9-19
Tues Mar 30	am: 6 pm: 94	Jer 15:10-21	Phil 3:15-21	John 12:20-26
Wed Mar 31	am: 55 pm: 74	Jer 17:5-10, 14-17	Phil 4:1-13	John 12:27-36
Thur Apr 1	am: 102 pm: 142, 143	Jer 20:7-11	1 Cor 10:14-17, 11:27-32	John 17
Fri Apr 2	am: 95, 22 pm: 40, 54	Gen 22:1-14	1 Pet 1:10-20	am: John 13:36-38 pm: John 19:38-42
Sat Apr 3	am: 95, 88 pm 27	Job 19:21-27a	am: Heb 4:1-16 pm: Rom 8:1-11	

Notes:

Purple symbolized something else in Celie’s life — pain. It was the color of bruises to Celie, the eggplant colored marks of being beaten and battered. The association with pain is also shown in the medals given to wounded soldiers, the Purple Heart. It is the color of sacrifice awarded to those who are wounded by the enemy in battle. Purple is the Lenten color of Christ, remembering his death on the cross (at the hands of Pilate who was perhaps wearing imperial purple?). Lenten purple is a complex mix of all the above themes — sacrifice, wounding and royalty — the color of the Purple Heart due to Jesus and the imperial power that wished to destroy him.

Purple can also be a color of transformation and change. The meaning of the color purple was transformed for Celie in Walker’s novel through her deep friendship with Shug. While walking through a field of purple wildflowers, Shug challenges Celie to embrace the fullness of life — and purple — noting the great beauty that surrounds them to be enjoyed in the moment. Later in the novel, after Celie and Shug have spent a long time apart, Celie receives Shug in her home — in a purple room. The novel captures the great depth of our purple lives, as we move through pain and find the courage to embrace beauty and happiness in life.

Purple is the color of the deep mystery of faith, a mix of blue sky and blood that occurs in the haze of the setting sun. From the first colors of dawn, through bruising and the wounds of life’s battles, to spring violets, we hope that eventually we will endure to a moment of liberation, the moment when we are a fully enfranchised human being, or and experience of grace from a loving God — and then we can boldly wear the color purple. Lent is here. Purple is not only welcome, but highly encouraged.



The Practice of Penitence

What is penitence and what does it mean to you? _____

Daily Scripture Readings: February 17-March 27 — Ash Wednesday Until Holy Week Begins

Date	Psalms	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Wed Feb 17	am: 95, 32, 143 pm: 102, 130	Jon 3:1-4:11	Heb 12:1-14	Luke 18:9-14
Thur Feb 18	am: 37:1-18 pm: 37:19-42	Deut 7:6-11	Titus 1:1-16	John 1:29-34
Fri Feb 19	am: 95, 31 pm: 35	Deut 7:12-16	Titus 2:1-15	John 1:35-42
Sat Feb 20	am: 30, 32 pm: 42, 43	Deut 7:17-26	Titus 3:1-15	John 1:43-51
Sun 1 Feb 21	am: 63, 98 pm: 103	Deut 8:1-10	1 Cor 1:17-31	Mark 2:18-22
Mon Feb 22	am: 41, 52 pm: 44	Deut 8:11-18	Heb 2:11-18	John 2:1-12
Tues Feb 23	am: 45 pm: 47, 48	Deut 9:4-12	Heb 3:1-11	John 2:13-22
Wed Feb 24	am: 119:49-72 pm: 49, 53	Deut 9:13-21	Heb 3:12-19	John 2:23-3:15
Thur Feb 25	am: 50, 59, 60 pm: 19, 46	Deut 9:23-10:5	Heb 4:1-10	John 3:16-21
Fri Feb 26	am: 40, 54 pm: 51	Deut 10:12-22	Heb 4:11-16	John 3:22-36
Sat Feb 27	am: 55 pm: 138, 139	Deut 11:18-28	Heb 5:1-10	John 4:1-26
Sun 2 Feb 28	am: 24, 29 pm: 8, 84	Jere 1:1-10	1 Cor 3:11-23	Mark 3:31-4:9
Mon Mar 1	am: 56, 57, 58 pm: 64, 65	Jere 1:11-19	Rom 1:1-15	John 4:27-42
Tues Mar 2	am: 61, 62 pm: 68	Jere 2:1-13	Rom 1:16-25	John 4:43-54
Wed Mar 3	am: 72 pm: 119:73-96	Jere 3:6-18	Rom 1:28-2:11	John 5:1-18
Thur Mar 4	am: 70, 71 pm: 74	Jere 4:9-10, 19-28	Rom 2:12-24	John 5:19-29
Fri Mar 5	am: 69 pm: 73	Jere 5:1-9	Rom 2:25-3:18	John 5:30-47
Sat Mar 6	am: 75, 76 pm: 23, 27	Jere 5:20-31	Rom 3:19-31	John 7:1-13
Sun 3 Mar 7	am: 93, 96 pm: 34	Jere 6:9-15	1 Cor 6:12-20	Mark 5:1-20
Mon Mar 8	am: 80 pm: 77, 79	Jere 7:1-15	Rom 4:1-12	John 7:14-36
Tue Mar 9	am: 78:1-39 pm: 78:40-72	Jere 7:21-34	Rom 4:13-25	John 7:37-52
Wed Mar 10	am: 119:97-120 pm: 81, 82	Jere 8:18-9:6	Rom 5:1-11	John 8:12-20
Thur Mar 11	am: 42, 43 pm: 85, 86	Jere 10:11-24	Rom 5:12-21	John 8:21-32
Fri Mar 12	am: 88 pm: 91, 92	Jere 11:1-8, 14-20	Rom 6:1-11	John 8:33-47
Sat Mar 13	am: 87, 90 pm: 136	Jere 13:1-11	Rom 6:12-23	John 8:47-59
Sun 4 Mar 14	am: 66, 67 pm: 19, 46	Jere 14:1-9, 17-22	Gal 4:21-5:1	Mark 8:11-21
Mon Mar 15	am: 89:1-18 pm: 89:19-52	Jere 16:10-21	Rom 7:1-12	John 6:1-15
Tue Mar 16	am: 97, 99, 100 pm: 94, 95	Jere 17:19-27	Rom 7:13-25	John 6:16-27
Wed Mar 17	am: 101, 109 pm: 119:121-144	Jere 18:1-11	Rom 8:1-11	John 6:27-40
Thur Mar 18	am: 69 pm: 73	Jere 22:13-23	Rom 8:12-27	John 6:41-51
Fri Mar 19	am: 107:1-32 pm: 107:33-43	Jere 23:1-8	Rom 8:28-39	John 6:52-59
Sat Mar 20	am: 102, 108 pm: 33	Jere 23:9-15	Rom 9:1-18	John 6:60-71
Sun 5 Mar 21	am: 118 pm: 145	Jere 23:16-32	1 Cor 9:19-27	Mark 8:31-9:1
Mon Mar 22	am: 31 pm: 35	Jere 24:1-10	Rom 9:19-33	John 9:1-17
Tues Mar 23	am: 121, 122, 123 pm: 124, 125, 126	Jere 25:8-17	Rom 10:1-13	John 9:18-41
Wed Mar 24	am: 119:145-176 pm: 128, 129, 130	Jere 25:30-38	Rom 10:14-21	John 10:1-18
Thur Mar 25	am: 131, 132, 133 pm: 140, 142	Jere 26:1-16	Rom 11:1-12	John 10:19-42
Fri Mar 26	am: 22 pm: 141, 143	Jere 29:1, 4-13	Rom 11:13-24	John 11:1-27 or 12:1-10
Sat Mar 27	am: 137, 144 pm: 42, 43	Jere 31:27-34	Rom 11:25-36	John 11:28-44 or 12:37-50