

Celebration of Worship

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

10 a.m.

Lent is the season of 40 days, not counting Sundays, before Easter. It comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "lencten," which means "spring." The season is in preparation for the celebration of Easter. Historically, it was the time of preparation for the baptism of Christian converts. It is a season for all Christians to engage in self-examination, repentance, prayer, fasting, self-denial; and reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

Welcome, Ministry Opportunities, the Peace

Prelude

Kathryn Herman

*Call to Worship – Psalm 130 (New King James Version)

Liturgist: My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning

People: Yes, more than those who watch for the morning.

L: O Israel, hope in the Lord; for with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption.

P: And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities. Alleluia!

*UMH No. 496

"Sweet Hour of Prayer"

SWEET HOUR

Opening Prayer

Offered in Unison

Everlasting God, because of your tender mercy toward all people, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon himself our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, and all should follow the example of his great humility. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of his patience and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Personal Prayer

Offered in Silence

We pray for the people of the State of North Carolina, the Tar Heel State, joined our union on November 21, 1789 (settled in 1660). The Tar Heel State achieved statehood in 1789, following a colonial period after the first permanent settlements around 1650. Centuries before European arrival, the land was the homeland of the Cherokee [CHAIR-uh-kee], the Tuscarora [tur-kuh-ROAR-uh], and the Catawba [kuh-TAW-buh]. The transfer of land was defined by a brutal cycle of the Indian Slave Trade, devastating smallpox, epidemics, and the decisive Tuscarora War (1711-1715), which broke indigenous resistance in the east and forced many people to move north. This displacement was finalized following the American Revolution, as victorious settlers seized vast tracts of Cherokee territory in the west as retribution for the tribe's alliance with the British Crown. Today, the Eastern Band of Cherokee and Lumbee Tribe are the only federally recognized tribes in North Carolina. Also pray for those who live in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

Pastoral Prayer

Congregants may share joys and concerns prior to the pastoral prayer.

Offering of Our Time, Talents, and Treasures

Offertory

Kathryn Herman

***Doxology - UMH No. 94 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

***Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer**

Gospel Lesson

"Matthew 25:31-40"

New International Version

Musical Offering

"Bienaventurados" (Blessed and Beloved)
by Lourdes C. Montgomery

Chancel Choir

Witness to the Word

"All Shall Be Well"

Dr. Kevin Connolly, Lay Servant

Response to the Word –

*“At the Foot of the Cross”
by Naomi Fata*

L: At the foot of the cross there is a healing.

P: At the foot of the cross there is mercy.

L: At the foot of the cross power flows from sinless blood.

P: Love pours into broken hearts from the perfect one

L: at the foot of the cross covered by his sacrifices.

P: The Son of God sets us free.

Acknowledgements and Faith Sharing: *Welcome visitors. Join our small groups!*

***UMH No. 526**

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

CONVERSE

***Benediction**

Rev. Dr. DaeHwa Park

Postlude

Kathryn Herman

UMH - United Methodist Hymnal

**Congregation may stand as able.*

Special Thanks to *Dr. Kevin Connolly, Lay Servant and preacher today; Ann Church, liturgist; Camille Bohannon, lector coordination; Chancel choir under the leadership of Kathryn Herman; Dick Church for information on the indigenous people; Silas Baylor, Acolyte; Fred Herman, Judy Chandler, Dick Church, Chris Taylor, Kayla Johnson, tech team; Zam Haque & Henry Varfley, Ushers; YoungHoon Park, Nancy Ide, door greeters; Carol Neill & Doris Swaim, counting; Robin Lowke, cleaning; Ed Jacues, Nightly Security Check; Mission Teams for Little Free Pantry (Maryann Robinson on Mon., Camille Bohannon & Margaret Chinn on Tue. & Thu., Robin Lowke on Wed., Patty Briemont and Doug Dull on Fri., Rich and Rayna Robb on Sat., Dyan Fell and Christine Fattore on Sun.), Sunday school teachers, and chaperons for youth activities. Flowers on the altar from Gaithersburg SDA Church.*

Thanks be to God. Praise the Lord!

Notes: The Church Council on Sunday, March 15, 2026 decided to publish one sheet of the program in order to save the printing cost. Two dozen of hardcopy is available at narthex esp. for choir members and those who want to have a hard copy during the service. The program with portable document format (a.k.a. PDF) is available at Covenant Connection on Thursdays. There will be information packet including calendars and other announcements will be published monthly.

Covenant United Methodist Church

20301 Pleasant Ridge Drive, Montgomery Village, MD 20886

Phone: (301) 926-8920

www.covenant-umc.org

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Sun., March 22, Fifth Sunday in Lent

9a	Children/Youth (Family) Worship	Sanctuary
9:30a	Meet and Greet	Fellowship Hall
10a	Worship	Sanctuary
6p	Sunday Evening Study	thru Zoom

Mon., March 23

11a	Coffee with the Pastor	thru Zoom
1-2p	Bible Study	thru Zoom
5:30p	Staff Meeting	thru Zoom
7p	Worship Committee	thru Zoom
9p	The Holy Club	thru Zoom

Tue., March 24, Church Office Opens (9 a.m.-2 p.m.)

9:35a-10 a.m.	Chapel for Preschool 3s & 4s	Sanctuary
10 a.m.	Chapel for Preschool 2s	Classroom #2
11-2p	Meet the Pastor	thru Zoom
7p	Tuesday Night Live	thru Zoom
9p	Journey thru the Bible	thru Zoom

Wed., March 25, Church Office Opens (9 a.m.-2 p.m.)

9:35a-10 a.m.	Chapel for Preschool 3s & 4s	Sanctuary
10 a.m.	Chapel for Preschool 2s	Classroom #2
8:30a	Walking Club	Parking lot
12p	High Noon Prayer	Facebook/daehwapark
7p	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
	The Story	thru Zoom

Thur., March 26

11-2p	Meet the Pastor	thru Zoom
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Fri., March 27 – Rev. Park's Day of Sabbath

6:30-8:30p	GGYM activities	Fellowship Hall +
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Sat., March 28, Day of Preparation

Sun., March 29, Palm/Passion Sunday

9a	Children/Youth (Family) Worship	Sanctuary
9:30a	Meet and Greet	Fellowship Hall
10a	Celebration of Worship	Sanctuary
6p	Sunday Evening Study	thru Zoom

Make an appointment for a guaranteed in-person meeting with the pastor thru Katya Flores, church secretary at (301) 926-8920 or office@covenant-umc.org

Send announcements to make through the Weekly Covenant Connection to Mariana Uhrlaub at marianau@aol.com by Tuesday 5 p.m.

See Zoom meeting IDs and Passwords (Other side)

GET CONNECTED through Worship, Study, and Fellowship

Celebration of Worship at 10 a.m.

Online Worship at <https://www.youtube.com/@covenantumc6910/streams>

Sunday Evening Study

Zoom Meeting ID: 625 380 900 passcode: CUMC1234

Coffee with the Pastor - Monday mornings at 11 a.m.

Zoom Meeting ID: 821 7822 3118 passcode: 208777

Holy Club with Young Professionals on Monday evenings at 9 p.m.

Zoom Meeting ID: 878 1926 7070 passcode: 417468 (New)

Bible Study: Parables on Monday at 1-2 p.m.

Zoom Meeting ID: 863 5389 2748 passcode: CUMC1234

Tuesday Night Live

Zoom Meeting ID: 231 882 6289 passcode: cumc1234 (lower case)

Journey thru the Bible—Tuesday evenings at 9 p.m.

Zoom Meeting ID: 878 2138 8065 passcode: 468241 (New)

High Noon Prayer, Wednesday at Noon

Zoom Meeting ID: 838 6452 6575; passcode: 879710

The Story

Zoom Meeting ID: 885 5178 9293 passcode: 737892

Meet the Pastor (Faith Talk) on Thursdays at 11 a.m.

Zoom Meeting ID: 869 5259 6555 passcode: 888062

Lenten Journey at Covenant

(Event details available at narthex)

“Becoming Disciples More Faithful than Teachers,” sermon series

Carbon Fast, a congregational Lenten daily discipline.

Fasting on Fridays, with special offering from the cost of meals

12 Hours of Famine (Youth Event), March 20th 11a.m. thru 11 p.m.

Young disciples, after school, come to church by 5 p.m.

Personal Meditation at the 14 Stations of the Cross in the Sanctuary

Palm Sunday, March 29, at 10 a.m.

Tenebrae Service, Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 7 p.m.

“Stations of the Cross” on Good Friday, April 3, at 7 p.m.

Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, April 4, at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Service at the outdoor chapel at 6 a.m.

Easter celebration on Easter Day at 10 a.m.