

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 THIRD STREET, CHERAW, SC 29520

843-537-7002

www.cherawfirstumc.org



THE CHURCH WITH A HEART, IN THE HEART OF CHERAW.

A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP APRIL 2, 2022

PALM SUNDAY LITURGICAL COLOR: BURLAP

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

Martha Starling

PRELUDE

“Valet will ich dir gebe”

SISTI/REGER/GLASS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joey Mills

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Joey Mills

L: Break open our hearts this morning to hear your word, O God.

C: Let our fears be vanquished, our spirits restored!

L: Come and let us worship with great joy!

C: Let us drop the things of the past which weighed us down!

L: God is about to do something new in our lives!

C: Let God’s will become strong in our lives. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER²

Joey Mills

We come into your presence, O Lord, with so many burdens and concerns on our hearts. Help us to be open to your words of healing and restoration. Bring us closer to you. Enable us to discern your will for us that we may serve you more faithfully by serving others in need. In Christ’s name, we pray. **AMEN.**

PSALTER NO. 839-40 Response #1

Psalm 118:14-29

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 50:4-9a

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH NO. 882** *Apostle’s Creed Ecumenical Version*

***GLORIA PATRI NO. 70**

GREATOREX

***HYMN NO. 280**

“All Glory, Laud and Honor”

ST. THEODULPH

PRAYER OF CONFESSION³

Pastor Debra

Patient Lord, we find it easy to blame others and other circumstances for the things which happen in our lives. We hear the words “if only” and wonder why things didn’t happen differently for us. Too often we want you to be a “magic” presence which will, with the wave of a wand, cure our ills, give us success and happiness; but we don’t necessarily want to take responsibility for our attitudes and actions. Life is. Things happen which we didn’t plan for and events swirl around us over which we have no control. But to place blame and not to find ways in which we can work through the situations is detrimental to everyone, especially ourselves. Forgive us when we are so busy placing blame that we don’t recognize your presence and love for us. Free us from placing our own desires first and foremost. Help us to look at the many ways in which you are working in the world for peace and justice and enable us to be part of that ministry. In Jesus’ name, we pray. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor Debra

Let go of your fears. God has forgiven you and offered to you God’s healing love. Accept this free gift, for it is given for you through Jesus Christ our Lord. In the name of Jesus the Christ you are forgiven.

Congregation: In the name of Jesus the Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Glory to God! Amen.

MORNING PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor Debra

ANTHEM

“Hosanna to The Son”

JUDY W. LINDH

The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!” Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: “Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.” At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

OFFERTORY	<i>“Amazing Grace”</i>	Carillon Choir	PATRICA COTA
DOXOLOGY NO. 95			OLD 100 th
OFFERTORY PRAYER			Pastor Debra
*HYMN NO. 277	<i>“Tell Me The Stories Of Jesus”</i>		STORIES OF JESUS
GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING		Matthew 21:1-11	Pastor Debra
SERMON		Living Inside Out: By God’s Grace	Pastor Debra
*HYMN NO. 278	<i>“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”</i>		ELLACOMBE
*BENEDICTION			Pastor Debra
*BENEDICTION RESPONSE UMH 665	<i>“Go Now In Peace”</i>		GO IN PEACE

Sing three times: Go now in peace, go now in peace may the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.

***POSTLUDE** *“Improvisation on Ellacombe”*

1 <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3641>

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid.

4 Ibid.

OUR PRAYER LIST – Our President, our Congress, all Governors, Mayors, State, County, and Local employees, all health care workers, EMT’s, all who defend our nation, all who make decisions for our nation, Jim Bennett, Scott Tomberlin, Mary Snookie Lomas, Shep Straughn, Betty Thrailkill, Tony Thrailkill, Bill Eutsler, Jr., Mary Burr, Jody Reid, Craig Norton, Martha Griggs, Steve Humphries, Katie Chapman, Thomas McKinnon, Zenda Rushing, Cale Yarborough, Jan Brigman, Meredith Rogers Creech, Ray Mathews, Stanton family, Jane Board, Jean Davis, James Thrumen. **NOTE: Names are left on the prayer list for two weeks; after two weeks, they are removed unless the church office is notified.**



The United Women in Faith are planning to resume their Mats for the Homeless Project. If you would like to participate in making mats, please call the church office at 843-537-7002, or Martha Starling at 843-910-4789 or Judy Dixon at 843-439-2579. If you are interested in cutting the bags for the mats, instructions will be available on the table outside of the Fellowship Hall or by email from Judy Dixon medtechduo@shnext.com. Some time ago, we took our first mat to the Cheraw Police Department. A homeless man was there and accepted the mat with great appreciation. We hope to be able to make more mats for the Glory of God and help people in need.



THE CONNECTION

The Mission of First United Methodist Church is to win and nurture souls for Jesus Christ by sharing and living the message of salvation.

www.cherawfirstumc.org

VOLUME
TWENTY
ISSUE 15
APRIL 2, 2023

Devotion from The Reverend Walter Strawther, Hartsville District Congregational Specialist...

Greetings siblings in Christ. It is once more my honor and privilege to bring you greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Yesterday, Saturday, March 25th, was Annunciation Sunday according to the Revised Common Lectionary. I thought it curious that the lectionary editors would highlight Jesus' birth during the season of Lent. However, the more I thought about it, the more sense it made. As a result, the scripture reference for this Sunday greeting is Hebrews 10:4-10. The key verse is as follows: Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me." (v. 5)

The original intent of the letter (actually this writing is more of a sermon) to the Hebrews was to encourage Jewish Christians to persevere as they experienced persecution in Jerusalem. To this end, this portion of the letter refers to Jesus' stated purpose for coming to earth: to provide salvation that could never be achieved through the blood sacrifice of bulls and goats. Animal sacrifice covered but did not cure sin. The author quotes Jesus as saying "a body has been prepared for me" as support for the doctrine of incarnation. Jesus takes on a human body to redeem all human beings. Jesus' willingness to be obedient even to the point of death on a cross serves as a source of hope to people who feel lost in the endless cycle of sinning, feeling guilty, attempting to change through sheer willpower or works, only to sin again. Jesus puts on a body to remove our need for works of sacrifice or otherwise.

We typically think of incarnation during the Advent/Christmas season, but we are reminded that it is insufficient to consider the Advent/Christmas season without considering Lenten/Easter season. God the Father is the ultimate sovereign and as such had unlimited options when it comes to bringing salvation to the world. God in God's wisdom chose to bring salvation through the birth of a baby boy to a virgin mother. As we prepare to celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday morning, Jesus' incarnation reminds us that what he did in his body matters. Jesus' baptism redeems all the baptismal waters across time and space. Jesus' growth and development offer redemption to every human being throughout history. As we grow and develop, we are bound to sin and Jesus' life offers us redemption. Incarnation reminds us that what we do in our bodies matters and Jesus has made a way for our body of work to be redeemed.

Gracious and merciful God, we are in awe of all the ways you continue to provide for our salvation. We are thankful for the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ because we recognize his faithful obedience as our means of salvation. We humbly ask for a renewed spirit seeking salvation in the body and blood of Jesus Christ. It is in the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Grace and Peace,
Walter E. Strawther, Congregational Specialist
Columbia/Hartsville Districts and African American Church Concerns
4908 Colonial Dr.
Columbia, SC 29203
Office: (803) 786-9486 Cell: (843) 696-8072



First United Methodist Church Cheraw , SC

April 6 th	Maundy Thursday Service	6:00 p.m.	Church Sanctuary
April 9 th	Easter Sunrise Service	6:30 a.m.	Circle Drive in front of the Church Bring a lawn chair
April 9 th	Easter Sunday Service	11:00 a.m.	Church Sanctuary



GRADUATES INFORMATION REQUESTED: If you are a high school or college student who will graduate this year or have a child who will graduate this year please provide contact information to the church office. We need the full name, date of graduation, degree earned, and high school or college from which the student will be graduating. This information is need to help us prepare for Graduate Sunday and the Graduate Breakfast.

Check out and follow us on the First United Methodist Church Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089937633979>



*Behind the Music*¹

*“When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun.
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise then when we’d first begun.”*

The final stanza was not part of Newton’s original hymn. The lyrics are actually from “*Jerusalem My Happy Home*” (1790). It was reproduced in Harriet Beecher Stowe’s own representation of the hymn in her novel, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (1852). By 1910 it became affixed to the hymn “*Amazing Grace*.” It is a fitting doxology to God’s ever abundant grace.



¹ Hoy, Michael, *Amazing Grace Devotions for Lent*, Creative Communications, Fenton MO., 2023, pg.39.



Flowering of the cross

Please bring flowers for the cross as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. The cross will be on the front porch of the church on Easter Morning.

Grief Share sessions are held at 1:30 p.m. every Wednesday at First United Methodist Church in the church parlor. Please call Bonnie Cundiff at 843-910-7526 for more information.



SERVING IN APRIL

GREETERS FOR MARCH

April 2 Betty Hurst
 April 9 Jim & Marianne Crawford
 April 16 Gailya Wilson
 April 23 Todd & Allison Becker
 April 30 Jay & Dawn Leach

LITURGIST FOR MARCH

April 2 Joey Mills
 April 9 Mark Armstrong
 April 16 Shannon Johnson
 April 23 Sammy Quick

FLOWERS FOR MARCH

April 2 Palms
 April 9 Easter Lilies

HEAD USHER FOR MARCH

Jeff Johnson

NURSERY FOR MARCH

April 2 Chase & Leslie Jean Watson
 April 9 Farah Lewis & Choles Reed
 April 16 Kelly Dusa & Choles Reed
 April 23 Farah Lewis & Christy Ruffner
 April 30 Trina Mills & Cindy Sanderson

ALCOLYTE FOR MARCH

Norma Cobb

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday April 2, 2023

10:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)
11:00 a.m. Worship
5:30-6:30 p.m. Fireflies (Kid's Nook & Fellowship Hall)
5:30-6:30 p.m. Youth (Youth Hut & Fellowship Hall)

Monday, April 3, 2023

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Church Office Open
6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (NETC)

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Church Office Open
6:00 p.m. Girls Scouts (Youth Hut)

Sunday, April 9, 2023

6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service
10:00 a.m. Sunday School

No Fireflies or Youth

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Church Office Open
Noon Bulletin/Newsletter Deadline
1:30 p.m. Grief Share (Parlor)
6:00 p.m. Bible Study (Parlor)
6:00p.m. Carillon Choir Practice (Choir Room)
7:00p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Thursday, April 6, 2023

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Church Office Open
10:00 a.m. Bible Study (Parlor)
6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 7, 2023

Good Friday Church Office Closed

Weekly Amount Needed: \$5,928.83

Amount Needed to Date: \$77,074.79

Sunday School Attendance March 26: 39

FUMC Food Pantry Item: Ramen Noodles

Greeters: Betty Hurst

Acolyte: Norma Cobb

Nursery Workers: Chase & Leslie Jean Watson

Sound System Operator: Holly Miles

Amount Received Week of March 29: 3,215.29

Amount Received to Date: \$ \$67,092.82

Worship Attendance March 26: 84

McCarn Food Bank Item: Rice Crispy Treats

Head Usher: Jeff Johnson

Liturgist Next Week: Mark Armstrong

Flowers Next Sunday: Easter Lilies

Video Technician: Bryson Hunter

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHERAW STAFF

Reverend Debra Armstrong, Pastor (fumcpastor1@gmail.com) O: 843-537-7002 C: 843-253-3132

Administrative Assistant (fumcadassistant1@gmail.com) O: 537-7002

Jim Glass, Director of Music and Organist (fumcmusic01@gmail.com) O: 843-537-7002