



*Bon Air United  
Methodist Church*

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MARCH 9TH, 2025  
11:00AM

1645 BUFORD ROAD  
N. CHESTERFIELD, VA 23235

[WWW.BONAIRUNITEDMETHODISTCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.BONAIRUNITEDMETHODISTCHURCH.ORG)

*The imposition of ashes emphasizes a dual encounter: we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith.* In the hecticness of the week's schedule some people may not be able to attend the service for the imposition of ashes on Wednesday. Without this important experience, the meaning of the Lenten season is greatly diminished. To include as many people as possible, into this means of grace, we offer this act of repentance and contemplation for you on this 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent.

“Remember, O mortal, that thou art dust and to dust thou shalt return”

PRELUDE

*Psalm Prelude Set 1, No. 1*

Herbert Howells

This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord  
and was saved from every trouble. Psalm 34: 6

WELCOME!

Rev. Mike Mayton

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come into the house of the LORD and worship God's Holy name.

**We come, aware of our sin, of all the ways we miss the mark.**

God welcomes you with compassion. **We come, longing for restoration, to be made new.**

God surrounds you with grace and forgiveness, reconciling you to God and one another.

**We come, thirsting for reconciliation, to draw close to God and one another.**

God embraces you with love, reuniting us with God and one another.

**Sustain in us, O God, a willing spirit to return to the joy of our salvation as we journey together through the season of Lent.**

\*HYMN UMH 340

*Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

RESTORATION

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Mayton

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

GENESIS (Selected verses)

Greg Frazee

ROMANS 3:22-24

Greg Frazee

SERMON

STEADFAST LOVE: SUSTAIN ME

Rev. Mayton

ASH WEDNESDAY: BLESSING THE DUST

So let us be marked, not for sorrow. And let us be marked, not for shame.  
Let us be marked, not for false humility or for thinking that we are less than we are  
but for claiming what God can do within the dust, within the dirt, within the stuff  
of which the world is made, and the stars that blaze in our bones,  
and the galaxies that spiral inside the smudge we bear.

ANTHEM

*Lord, For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake*  
Chancel Choir

Richard Farrant

## SERVICE OF GIVING

OFFERTORY

*Elevation No. 35*

Paul Benoit

DOXOLOGY 95

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

the early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation. During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church. In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word. To make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, Let us now bow before our Creator and Redeemer.

### THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.  
Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence,  
so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift  
are we given everlasting life;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

### IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.  
*Please come forward at the leading of the Holy Spirit to receive the imposition of ashes.*

### CONFESSION AND PARDON

On this first day of Lent we pause, look within,  
and examine our consciousness.

**Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.**

Where we have neglected prayer, been apathetic in worship,  
found reasons to avoid generosity, or lacked compassion:

**Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.**

Where we have colluded in the oppression of those  
who become invisible in their suffering and ignored on the streets:

**Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.**

Where anxiety has eroded the gift of Your peace, and where we have cared too much about what others think: **Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

As Lent begins, know that God understands how we struggle to stay open and compassionate. The invitation is not to focus on our inadequacies but on God's gift of grace and love which transforms our hearts and minds. That gift is given to us again, here and now. Be encouraged. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

**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.**

HYMN UMH 269

*Lord, Who Throughout These 40 Days*

LAND OF REST

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Rev. Mayton

\*CLOSING SONG TFWS 2281

*May You Run and Not Be Weary*

PRINCE OF PEACE

**May you run and not be weary, May your heart be filled with song.  
And may the love of God continue, to give you hope and keep you strong.  
And may you run and not be weary, May your life be filled with joy!  
And may the road you travel always lead you home.**

POSTLUDE

*Prelude in A Minor*

J.S. Bach

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stay up to date with our weekly emails: Please contact [mippolito@bonairumc.org](mailto:mippolito@bonairumc.org) to be added!

Mondays at 7:00pm in Room 1101 - Men's Group - New Topic: Making Sense of the Bible

Thursdays at 10:30am in Room 1104 - *Soul Feast: An invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life*

March 18<sup>th</sup> - Community Covered Dish Dinner at 6:15pm in the BAUMC Gym. Please bring with you your favorite dish (please preferably veggie or non-pork meat dishes) and dessert with a label naming the item. Plates, cups, bread, and water will be provided. Families are welcome!

2 Bucks for Mission - The first of three formal collection dates for \$2 for Mission is scheduled for Sunday, March 23.

March 25<sup>th</sup> - RISC Nehemiah Action! 6:30-8:30pm at St. Paul's Baptist Church

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*"Call to Worship,"* Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, August 2024.

*"Words of Assurance,"* Written by Ann Siddall, in *Lent to Easter liturgies: Year C.* Posted on the website of the Stillpoint Spirituality Centre, <https://stillpointcentre.com.au/>. Re-posted on the *re:Worship* blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/08/confession-based-on-psalm-51.html>.