

BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

474 Chapel Street
Harrisville, R.I.



The Rev. Darin Collins, Pastor
Emma Latendresse, Music Director

BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH
Harrisville, Rhode Island
ASH WEDNESDAY
Wednesday, February 17, 2021

We, the fellowship of Berean Baptist Church, worship one God who is revealed and accessible to each and every one of us regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, social standing or all other abilities. All have been given the gift of accepting full participation in the Kingdom of God. God's grace, love, and mercy are given freely and unconditionally and extend to all people. Therefore, we accept, welcome and affirm all as brothers and sisters united in striving to live holy and acceptable lives in the service of God's Kingdom. May our hearts as well as our church doors remain forever open and welcoming to all of God's creation.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** THE PEACE/PRELUDE**

“The Long Night”

~Michele McLaughlin

CALL TO WORSHIP

~ Lisa Frenz

Leader: Return to the Lord.
Leave behind all the pain.

People: Leave behind all the hate.
Come back to your true life again.

Leader: Return to the Lord.
Abandon your sins.

People: Abandon your fears.
Come back to repentance and hope.

***UNISON INVOCATION, LORD'S PRAYER**

Holy Spirit:

With astonishment,
we see that you renew our strength constantly.

Allow us not to forget your presence,
Even in adversity.

And, in our turn,

we will renew our gratefulness and we will sing for your love
as we pray as Jesus taught us saying...

*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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead
us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kingdom
and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen

ENTER GOD'S COURT WITH PRAISE

"Let Justice Flow"

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

~written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell

Leader: We bring our burdens and our sins to You, O Christ,
who bears the heavy load for us.

We place upon You our excuses, our shortcomings,
our anger and our desire,
knowing that You can remove these sins from us
and restore us to life.

People: We confess that we have gone astray.

**We confess that we have not loved You fully
and have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.**

**We confess that we have not fully loved even our very
selves.**

Forgive us of our sins.

**Help us to turn back to You.
Restore what has been broken,
transform what has been twisted,
find what has been lost,
so we may be the living, loving image of You in creation.
In Your precious name we pray. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE: 2 Cor 5:20-6:10

²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin^[a] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6 As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ² For he says,

"In the time of my favor I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you."^[b]

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

Paul's Hardships

³ We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. ⁴ Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; ⁵ in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; ⁶ in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; ⁷ in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; ⁸ through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; ⁹ known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

MESSAGE: Stubborn Hope 1

Distress and Grace, The Full Story of Following Jesus

RESPONSE: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S TABLE

INVITATION

RESPONSE: "Lead Me to Calvary

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING THE CUP

COMMUNION:

"Let Us Break Bread"

*RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Leader: This Ash Wednesday,
we bear the smudges of uncertainty,

People: yet we will still trust in God's promises.

Leader: This Ash Wednesday,
we may share the Feast by ourselves,

**People: yet we will join the Host at the Table
in going to care for the vulnerable all around us.
we will go out to share God's forgiveness**

Leader: This Ash Wednesday, we may continue
to journey into an unknown future,

**People: yet we will continue to walk in faith
with the Spirit who lights the way.**

*RESPONSIVE CLOSING LITANY

Leader: Give up harsh words: use generous ones.

People: Give up unhappiness: take up gratitude.

Leader: Give up anger: take up gentleness and patience.

People: Give up pessimism: take up hope and optimism.

Leader: Give up worrying: take up trust in God.

People: Give up complaining: value what you have.

Leader: Give up stress: take up prayer.

People: Give up judging others: discover Jesus within them.

Leader: Give up sorrow and bitterness: fill your heart with joy.

People: Give up selfishness: take up compassion for others.

Leader: Give up being unforgiving: learn reconciliation.

**People: Give up words:
fill yourself with silence, and listen to others.**

***CLOSING HYMN: "Hosea"**

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "Threefold Amen" (628)**

POSTLUDE: "Lost" ~Michele McLaughlin

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