

MIDWEEK MISSIVE 03/07/19

Last evening, members and friends of the Candleberry Chapel gathered in the chapel to begin our Lenten journey together. Ashes were placed on our foreheads as a sign of our mortality (“from dust you come, to dust you will return”), and as a sign of the hope that the cross of Jesus brings into our lives. We heard and sang beautiful songs, listened to instructive scriptures and were prodded to reflect on what holds us back from a truly complete walk with God, and how we might let go and move forward. In short, we worshipped together and left with work to do.

Lent is a time for all of us to reflect on the gifts we have been given, and on the fact that try as we might, we are all sinners. Most importantly, we also reflect on the fact that we are indeed a forgiven people, children of God. And that means everything.

But that fact should not stop us from doing the hard work of Lent: looking deep inside ourselves and discovering how we can do better, how we can be better, and how we can strengthen our walk with God.

It is not always easy, this introspection. It involves admitting some things we don't like to admit about ourselves. It can take us to some dark places. But once having confronted those dark places, we can begin to work toward leaving them behind. Beginning this coming weekend, we will continue our journey with a message brought by Chuck PetitBon about “The Meaning of Lent”, and then on succeeding weekends until Easter, I will present a series of messages entitled: “The Gifts of the Darkness”. This series is aimed at confronting some of the darkness that we face but in a little different way: I want to explore what gifts we find in those dark places and times, and how we might use them to move ever closer to being the people God would have us be. We will explore topics like “Getting Lost”, “Uncertainty”, “Temptation” and “Pain” among others. I hope you will join us as we do our best to honor God with our Lenten disciplines and actions.

**Be peaceful,
Rev. Brad—**

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