

## **2024 Lenten Opportunities**

You're invited to a Lenten journey, beginning with Ash Wednesday February 14th.

### **Ash Wednesday Worship Times:**

12:00 pm and 6:30 pm

### **Midweek Wednesday Worship & Conversation: "Have a Beautiful, Terrible Lent!" by Kate Bowler**

- Week 1 - February 21 - "Entering the Wilderness" - Mark 1:9-15
- Week 2 - February 28 - "The Limitless Love of God" - Mark 9:2-9
- Week 3 - March 6 - "Transformation (Not Perfection)" - John 2:13-22
- Week 4 - March 13 - "The Depths of Renewal" - John 3:14-21
- Week 5 - March 20 - "The Compassion of God" - John 12:20-33

An invitation by Kate Bowler:

"Lent marks the forty days leading up to Jesus' execution and surprising return to life three days later. It is a practice that began during the fourth century as a way to prepare Christians for the holiest, hardest days of our story.

During Lent, we ask God to show us the world as it is. We begin on Ash Wednesday with the reality of our finitude rubbed on our foreheads — from dust we were made, to dust we shall return. Then, we walk through that reality in a kind of dress rehearsal. It is the downward slope of God—the Great Descent. The whole church must descend to the depths with their savior. Frankly, Lent is my favorite part of the church calendar. Suddenly, all of us are on the losing team. And we look at each other with well-earned wonder, horror, and awe. We begin to tell each other the truth again: life is so beautiful and life is so hard. For everyone.

Of course, the cross isn't the end of the story. But this season of grief is carved out to acknowledge the reality of Jesus' sacrifice. Our savior knew pain and grief and despair, and so do we. Easter is coming, yes. But for now, we sit in the ashes of our broken dreams and broken hearts, knowing that God sits here with us."

### **Each Wednesday Schedule:**

- 12:15 pm - *Spoken Worship with Kate Bowler Discussion and Communion (Gathering Area)*
- 4:45 pm - *Children's Choir*
- 5:45 pm - *Shared Meal (Fellowship Hall)*
- 6:30 pm - *Service of Evening Prayer and Kate Bowler Discussion (Fellowship Hall)*
- 7:15 pm — *Choir*

## ***ADDITIONAL LENTEN MUSIC AND BIBLE STUDY***

Beginning at noon on Thursday, February 15 and occurring each Thursday in Lent, Deacon David will lead a lunch-hour class on the ins and outs of Bach's Passion setting from St. John.

This class will be open to all members and friends of St. Michael and will be held jointly with S.C.Bach who will be presenting a performance of Bach's St. John Passion on Sunday, March 24 at 4:00 at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Topics for the six-week class will include the following:

- The Passion Accounts of Jesus in the Gospel and their use in worship
- Musical settings of the Gospel Passions: History and Practice
- Bach's Passion's
  - Bach's St. John Passion: Content and structure
    - Place in the worship of the Leipzig churches
    - Bach's music as a vehicle for presenting the text
    - Bach's passion as drama
- What to expect in a performance. Getting to know the music.

All are welcomed to the Fellowship Hall on Thursdays at noon. Feel free to bring lunch which you are welcomed to enjoy during the presentations. For more information, please speak to or contact Deacon David ([david@stmichaelca.org](mailto:david@stmichaelca.org))