

Reframing Lent by Pastor Ryan LaRock

Here we are in the season of Lent, and I know what is going through your head—what will I give up or what will I take on? It's human nature to cling to measurable goals without considering the intentionality behind the why. In other words, we focus on whether or not we can make it through avoiding sweets for that period of time, but if we fall short, we beat ourselves up over it. What we miss is the very matter that is inherent to Lent—fasting. Fasting is not intended to be a test of our endurance, but a spiritual discipline that invites our hearts to be shaped by God. It is an invitation to allow God's will for our lives to take precedence of our own wants or desires, thus the pruning of those things that consume or distract our hearts from God.

Throughout the Lenten season, we are led to a place of reckoning with our human mortality and our realization that we are helpless without the grace of God. This is a tough look in the spiritual mirror for us because it challenges us to be vulnerable. This text from Joel 2 is one often used as we enter Lent, and I appreciate what it invites us to consider: "Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity."

What if we approached fasting by focusing on the spiritual rupturing of the heart? What if we moved away from a place that was all about taking away or adding things to our routines that are realistically speaking, short lived? May we focus on the work of the heart that God is actively doing in our lives.

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Methodist Church

For the time being, we will cease passing the offering plate due to the coronavirus outbreak. Baskets will be available at the doors as you exit the worship center. Please consider giving online. Go to Pushpay, our online giving platform, at bit.ly/givechristchurchva to set up a safe and recurring offering. We will continue to assess and share information in a timely manner. Thank you for being the church that you are.

Financial Snapshot

Week Ending	3/8/2020	YTD
Budgeted Tithes & Offerings	\$34,746	\$416,954
Actual Tithes & Offerings	\$33,115	\$435,209
Overall (Shortfall)	-\$1,631	\$18,256



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 /christchurchva

March 15, 2020

CROSS LIFE

WELCOME

Thanks for being our guest today. Please stop by the welcome desk in the lobby on your way out. We'd love to meet you, answer any questions and give you a special gift.

FIRST TIME?

Your children & youth are welcome in worship services. We offer programs for infants–12th grade during both services. Get more information at CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG.

For adults & kids with different abilities, learn about our Inclusive Ministry at CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/POSSIBILITIES.

Need prayer? Our Prayer Team will pray with you. They're at the worship center exit doors after both services. You can also write your prayer request on your connection card or go to CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/CONTACT.

Get connected by stopping under the cross for 5 minutes after the service to ask questions, by marking your connection card or by visiting CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/UPDATES.

SERMON

YOU ARE HERE	Cross Life						
	WEEK 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			▲				

This week:

"Jesus as Peacemaker"
Pastor Ryan LaRock

Next Week:

"Jesus as Delegator"
Pastor John Speight

WAYS TO WATCH

Watch Online

CHRISTCHURCHVA.CHURCHONLINE.ORG

Hear previous sermons

CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/SERMONS

Download our mobile app

Christ Church VA

Our services are photographed and broadcast live.

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT



Minute Ministries

Sign up at bit.ly/minuteministries



MINUTE MINISTRIES We are excited to introduce a brand new way for everyone to embrace Christ Church and our church family on your own time, in your own way, through Minute Ministries! Minute Ministries is a hands-on, project-based way for all ages to become involved at Christ Church, using your unique skills while respecting your time. Choose a project already identified by the team, such as installing cabinets, touch-up painting or building a fern prayer garden, suggest your own ideas, or spearhead your own project.

Need help at home, like removing items from your attic or tending to some yardwork? "Lending Hands" is available to help you out with projects you have at home that you could use some assistance with. Just let the Minute Ministries team know.

To sign up for Minute Ministries, or to request assistance, go to bit.ly/minuteministries or email **Todd Pardue at pardue.todd@gmail.com**.

community serve night

the Thursday before the third Friday of every month



COMMUNITY SERVE NIGHT

Thu, Mar 19, 7–8pm

Join us for this multifaceted and family-friendly opportunity to serve. We rely on your donations to support this ministry! We are always in need of juice in boxes or pouches, fruit cups, any individually packaged snack items like peanut butter crackers, puddings, hot chocolate packets, granola bars and large water bottles. We also need unopened, travel size toiletries like toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, lotion, razors, shampoo/conditioner and deodorant.



MEMBERSHIP Class is **Mar 22, 12:30–2pm**
Childcare available if you register by Tue, Mar 17.

CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/MEMBERSHIP



BAPTISM Class is **Apr 26, 12:30–1:30pm**
Baptisms are **Sun, May 10, 9:30 & 11am**
Childcare available if you register by Tue, Apr 21.

CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/BAPTISM

ONGOING

CELEBRATE RECOVERY **Mon, Mar 16, 7–9pm**, childcare provided (12 and under), Rm 256A

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP & COMMUNION "Keeping the Fast"
Wed, Mar 18, 6:45–7:45pm, Worship Center

COOL BEANS with Pastor Ryan **Thu, Mar 19, 4–6pm**, Starbucks, Shoppes of Lorton Valley

LIVING IT OUT with Pastor Tony & Jennifer Deschanel
Thu, Mar 19, 7pm, Christ Church Online Facebook Page

UPCOMING

PALM SUNDAY **Sun, Apr 5, 9:30 & 11am**

Join us as we journey to Jerusalem with Jesus as he prepares for his final week before his death and resurrection. For on a lowly donkey, Jesus reveals himself to be a new kind of king, one who would order our lives through peace and reconciliation rather than violence or judgment. Not a tyrant king, but king of humility. A king who has invited us to adopt that leadership in our own lives.



HOLY THURSDAY & PASSION

Thu, Apr 9, 7pm Join us for a time of worship taking us from the table to the cross as we walk through Jesus' final days from the Last Supper to his capture, suffering and death. Powerful worship music, a reflective message and interactive experiences create a unique and awe-inspiring experience for worship. *Programming is provided for children ages infant–grade 4. All other kids and youth are welcome in the main worship service.*



CHARGE CONFERENCE **Sun, Mar 15, 12:30pm**

The purpose is for: 1) consideration of James Lewis' call to ministry; 2) consideration of Maggie Croghan's call to ministry; and 3) consideration of a COLA increase for the pastors.

For more information on any of our events and activities, go to:
CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/EVENTS