

Welcome to

## St. Michael's University Church

An inclusive and caring community  
in the heart of Isla Vista

**Second Sunday in Lent**  
**February 25, 2024**



A warm **"Welcome Back"** to Imam Wael Hegazy.  
Thank you for blessing us with your presence.

And spend in the way of Allah and do not throw [yourselves] with your [own] hands into destruction [by refraining]. And do good; indeed, Allah loves (al-Muhsneen or doers of Ihsan) the doers of good." (Quran 2: 195, Surah al-Baqarah)

"The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "Verily, Allah has prescribed excellence (ihsan) in all things" (hadith reported by Abu Huraira).

## PRELUDE

### RINGING OF BELL

*Please stand if you are able.*

God is with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

(The celebrant says the collect, to which the people respond **Amen.**)



***Whoever you are, whatever your story,  
wherever you are on your journey,  
you are welcome here.***

### SONG: ***Freedom Highway***

#### ***Chorus***

*March down freedom highway  
Marchin' each and every day (REPEAT)  
Made up my mind that I won't turn around  
Made up my mind that I won't turn around*

*There is just one thing  
That makes me come undone  
Why some folks think freedom  
Is not for everyone  
There are so many people  
Living their lives perplexed  
Wonderin' in their minds  
What's gonna' happen next?*

#### ***Chorus***

*Children in the desert  
Their parents taken away  
The whole world is wonderin'  
What's wrong with the United States?  
Yes, we want peace  
If it can be found  
We're marching freedom highway  
And we're not going to turn around*

#### ***Chorus***

*Please sit for the Reading and Psalm.*

**READING: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

*Reader:*            *Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.*

*People:*            **Thanks be to God**

**PSALM: 22:22-30** (read antiphonally by whole verse)

22 Praise the Lord, you that fear God;  
stand in awe of God, O offspring of Israel;  
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

23 For God does not despise nor abhor the poor in their  
poverty;  
neither does God hide God's face from them;  
but when they cry to God God hears them.

- 24 My praise is of God in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who  
worship God.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the Lord shall praise the Lord:  
"May your heart live forever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to  
the Lord,  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before God.
- 27 For kinship belongs to the Lord;  
God rules over the nations.
- 28 To God alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in  
worship;  
all who go down to the dust fall before God.
- 29 My soul shall live for God;  
my descendants shall serve God;  
they shall be known as the Lord's forever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn  
the saving deeds that God has done.

*Please stand if you are able for the reading of the Gospel.*

### **GOSPEL HYMN: "O Lord Hear My Prayer"**

*O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer  
When I call answer me  
O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer  
Come and listen to me.*

### **GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38**

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according  
to Mark.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must  
undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief  
priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise  
again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside

and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**GOSPEL HYMN: "O Lord Hear My Prayer"**

**SERMON:**

**SONG:           Make You Feel My Love - Bob Dylan**  
***with InterVals A Capella***

*Please stand if you are able.*

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

With wonder and compassion, we turn our hearts to God in prayer.

For all displaced people, victims of poverty, wars, and violence, for an end to all forms of oppression, suffering and discrimination, we pray.

**Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.**

For the expansive beauty of your creation and our renewed care for this planet, for the defenders of sacred lands and territories, we pray.

**Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.**

For leaders and nurturers, decision-makers, and those with influence, that they may lead, and guide with integrity, justice, and compassion.

**Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.**

For healthy bodies, minds, and spirits, for calm when anxious, and quiet when fearful.

**Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.**

For all of us on our different paths, from different faiths, yet united by a common Source of Love.

**Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.**

For the hopes and intentions of this community.

For our healing presence here and beyond.

**Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.**

For what and for whom else would we like to pray today?  
(Pause)

For all of these prayers and the silent prayers in our hearts, we pray.

**God of Love, hear the prayers of your people.**

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER COLLECT**

**INVITATION** (*the Deacon or Celebrant says*)

God is gracious and merciful and knows our needs even before they reach our lips. All that we are, have been, and will be is known to God. Still, we engage in confession, acknowledging to

God all that rests uneasily in our hearts. Confident of God's love, let us make our confession now, first in silent prayer.

## **Silence**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (let us pray together):

**Gracious and loving God,  
open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the  
fullness of our lives—that which is beautiful and that which  
is hurtful and hateful.**

**We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.**

**We love with condition.**

**We destroy your creation.**

**We judge and condemn.**

**We cast the first stone and keep the log in our own eye.**

**We do not always turn to you as the source of our healing.**

**We believe you have the power to turn us around to a more  
abundant way of life, so we ask that you do that.**

**We ask that you give us the energy, empathy, patience, and  
imagination to be your people in all we say and do.**

**Amen**

## **THE PEACE**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE OFFERTORY:** *Offerings are collected and all who are able stand, sing:*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow*

*Praise God all creatures here below*

*Praise God above ye heavenly host*

*Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

## HOLY COMMUNION

*Celebrant* God is with you.

People **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to God.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Loving God. By water and the Holy Spirit, you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ, to show forth your glory in all the world. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with every nameless and unremembered child of God, and with all the company of heaven, singing:

*Celebrant and People sing* "Santo, Santo, Santo"

**Santo, santo, santo**

**Mi corazón te adora**

**Mi corazón te sabe decir:**

**"Santo eres, Señor"**

Holy and gracious God: You made us in your infinite love, and when we turned away from that love, you sent Jesus Christ to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, and to draw us near to you.

On the night he was given over to suffering and death, Jesus took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."



After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues:*

Recalling now Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection, we gather at this table with bread and wine in celebration of life and love, work, play and rest, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and Her presence in our lives. Send your Spirit upon these gifts. Let them be for us the Body and Blood of Christ. And grant that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may be filled with your life and goodness. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ:  
**By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. AMEN.**

And now, as Christ has taught us, we pray:

**Our God, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name  
Thy kindom 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 kindom,**

**and the power, and the glory  
For ever and ever.  
Amen**

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*Celebrant* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God.  
Everyone is welcome at God's table.

### **Holy Eucharist**

The Body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation. **Amen.**

"Everyone is welcome at God's table. Please join us in a circle on the other side of the altar. Our bread is gluten free. For bread only and not the wine, please raise your left hand. For a blessing rather than communion, place your arms across your chest. "

## **SILENCE**

[God's first language is Silence. Everything else is a translation. – Thomas Keating]

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*Please stand if you are able.*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**Eternal God,  
you have graciously accepted us  
as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you and your people with gladness  
and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

### **SONG: We Shall Not Be Moved**

*We shall not, we shall not be moved  
We shall not, we shall not be moved  
Just like a tree planted by the water  
We shall not be moved*

*On the road to freedom, we shall not be moved  
On the road to freedom, we shall not be moved  
Just like a tree planted by the water  
We shall not be moved*

*Everyone together, we shall not be moved  
Everyone together, we shall not be moved  
Just like a tree planted by the water  
We shall not be moved*

## **SENDING**

Go in peace to love and serve God and all God's people.  
**Thanks be to God!**

## **POSTLUDE**

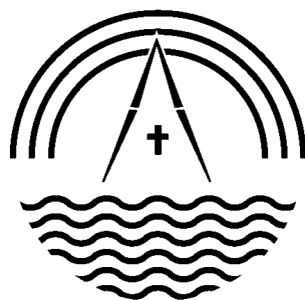
---

# **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**



A significant number of enslaved Africans brought to the Americas during the trans-Atlantic slave trade were Muslims, with large concentrations located in South Carolina, the Georgia Sea Islands, and

Louisiana. A prominent example of an early African Muslim enslaved in the Americas, Ayyub ibn Sulayman (1701-1773), was born to a prominent family in Bondou, which is present-day Senegal. He was captured and sold to an enslaver in Maryland. His life was chronicled in a biography called *Some Memoirs of the Life of Job, the Son of Solomon* (Thomas Bluett). Another example is Bilali Mohamet, who led an informal militia of 80 enslaved men prepared to defend Georgia's Sapelo Island from British invasion during the War of 1812. The presence of enslaved African Muslims like Ayyub and Bilali can be found throughout 19th c. American literature. Herman Melville wrote of them in his story, "Benito Cereno," and Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote about an African American Muslim in *Dred, A Tale of the Great Dismal Swamp*. For more information about this important period of American history see Sylviane Anna Diouf's book, *Servants of Allah: African Muslims Enslaved in the Americas* (NYU Press, 2013), and Edward E. Curtis IV's book, *Muslim Americans in the Military: Centuries of Service* (Indiana Univ. Press, 2016)



[www.saintmikesucsb.org](http://www.saintmikesucsb.org)  
805.968.2712