Romans

The Way of Salvation

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

PEACHTREE ROAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2025 LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

LENT 2025

Dear Peachtree Road Family,

The season of Lent is upon us, and the observance of these forty days usually begins in the church with this invitation:

> *Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: the early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation… I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.*

On Ash Wednesday, we heed this call to observe a Holy Lent by devoting ourselves for the next 40 days to prayer and fasting, worship, the study of scripture, and service toward others.

I especially want to commend to you the study of scripture this year. We will be reading and studying Paul's letter to the church in Rome together this spring. Each morning, we will email you the suggested reading for the day along with a prayer. We even will provide some questions for you to consider as you read the texts. In addition, we will be offering a clergy-led study of Romans on Wednesday evenings, and I will be preaching from Romans each Sunday during Lent under the theme "The Way of Salvation."

You may be wondering, "Why Romans?" Scholars recognize Paul's letter to the Romans as the most systematic and detailed explanation of the meaning of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The letter addresses complex theological concepts like justification by faith, sanctification, and the relationship between God's grace and human responsibility. Most of all, I want to remind you that it was at a Bible study on Romans that John Wesley felt his "heart strangely warmed." Studying Romans can lead us to depths in our faith we have never imagined. That is why we are studying Romans this Lenten season!

This is an exciting time to be a part of Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. I encourage you to invest yourself the next 40 days in worship, study, and service so that this time will be transformational for you and others.

Grace and peace,

Bill

Rev. Bill Britt
Senior Minister, PRUMC

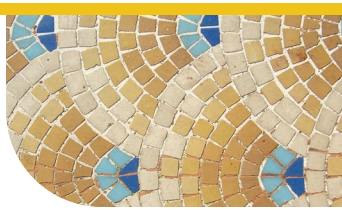
Living by Faith

Week 1

March 9 - March 15

For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is God's saving power for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith, as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith."

Romans 1:16-17



Read Romans 1 and 2

Reflect Use the next page to journal or answer one or all of the following questions.

1. Lent is a time for us to consider our life of faith and to deepen our relationship with God. It is a time of repentance, reflection, and renewal. How are you spiritually preparing this Lenten season? How is it with your soul? How do you hope to encounter God?
2. In the focus verses for this week, Romans 1:16-17, Paul quotes the prophet Habakkuk, "The righteous will live by faith." What is your understanding of faith?
3. In the Common English Bible translation, Romans 2:3-4, states, "If you judge those who do these kinds of things while you do the same things yourself, think about this: Do you believe that you will escape God's judgment? Or do you have contempt for the riches of God's generosity, tolerance, and patience? Don't you realize that God's kindness is supposed to lead you to change your heart and life?" How has God's generosity, mercy, grace, and kindness changed your heart and life?

Reflection Page

Review

Wednesday
March 12
6:30 pm

Rev. Elizabeth Byrd leads our churchwide discussion on Romans 1 and 2.

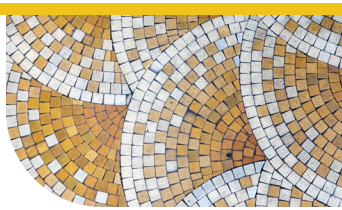
Justifying Grace

Week 2

March 16 - March 22

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

Romans 5:1-2



Read Romans 3, 4, and 5

Reflect Use the next page to journal or answer one or all of the following questions.

1. Chances are you have heard the phrase, "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Lent is a time when we ask God to create in us clean hearts, to forgive us of our sins, and to align our lives and desires to that which is pleasing to God. In what ways do you need to ask for God's forgiveness? How are you intentionally taking time to connect with God in this season, so that you stay anchored in your faith and aligned with what is pleasing to God?

2. In Romans Chapter 4, Paul uses Abraham's story to exemplify the importance of faith in God. Facing a seemingly impossible situation, Abraham does not place his faith in his own abilities or powers but in the powers and abilities of God (Genesis 12-22). How do you understand the meaning of hope in the face of great challenges? What does it look like to "hope against hope" (Romans 4:18)? Have you experienced a time when doubt, faith, and hope were present simultaneously?

3. John Wesley, theologian and founder of the Methodist movement, understood justification as God's mercy and grace shown in the suffering and death of Jesus on our behalf, pardon for sin, and the restoration of the capacity for love of God and neighbor. Considering this understanding (*Justifying Grace* – what God has done for us, and *Sanctifying Grace* – what God does in us), think about your own life and God's grace. Think about the moment(s) you've experienced Justifying Grace, and how you see the Sanctifying Grace of God at work in your life? (Definitions provided by Wesley Study Bible commentary.)

Reflection Page

Review

Wednesday
March 19
6:30 pm

Rev. Daniel Ogle leads our churchwide discussion on Romans 3, 4 and 5.

Freedom in Christ

Week 3

March 23 - March 29

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

Romans 7:15-20

Read Romans 6 and 7

Reflect Use the next page to journal or answer one or all of the following questions.

1. In Romans Chapter 6, Paul challenges the thought that God's free grace provides an excuse for sin. "We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourself dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus."(Romans 6:9-11). How do we live dead to sin and alive in Christ?

2. Read and reflect on our focus verses (Romans 7:15-20). How do these words resonate with you and how do they challenge you?

3. Freedom from sin requires humility and our recognition that we are powerless over sin and fully dependent on God. What sins in your own life do you recognize yourself as powerless over? In what ways do you need to ask for God's forgiveness and grace? How are you seeking to live fully into the freedom God offers us?

Reflection Page

Review

Wednesday
March 26
6:30 pm

Rev. Emily Miles leads our churchwide discussion on Romans 6 and 7.

Blessed Assurance

Week 4

March 30 - April 5

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;

we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:35-39

Read Romans 8, 9, 10, and 11

Reflect Use the next page to journal or answer one or all of the following questions.

1. What are the main themes or passages from Romans 8-11 that resonated with you? Which passages do you find difficult to understand?
2. Hearing God and listening to God are essential components of faith. How do you practice hearing God's voice?
3. Romans 10:13 says that "everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." What do you think this means? What does it look like, or sound like, to call upon the name of the Lord? What Biblical voices do we see Paul sharing and quoting throughout these chapters? Why do you think Paul uses them in his letter?
4. The judgment of Israel came because they held on to God as their own instead of proclaiming God in all the earth, as Paul quotes the Old Testament prophets Hosea and Isaiah. How can we, today, proclaim the goodness of God in all the earth?

Reflection Page

Review

Wednesday
April 2
6:30 pm

Rev. Josh Miles leads our churchwide discussion on Romans 8, 9, 10, 11.

Transformation

Week 5

April 6 - April 12

Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2

Read Romans 12 and 13

Reflect Use the next page to journal or answer one or all of the following questions.

1. What does it mean to be transformed by the renewing of the mind?
2. As Christians, we are to seek God's guidance and rely on the Holy Spirit to lead us. How do we live a life of discernment? How do we become more aware of God's presence in our midst and God's guidance for our lives?
3. Romans 12 and 13 speak to the nature of our character as Christians. What are some of the marks or characteristics of Christians Paul outlines for us in these chapters?
4. New every morning is God's love, mercy, and grace for us. How have you experienced God's mercy and grace? How have you experienced new life?

Reflection Page

Review

Wednesday
April 9
6:30 pm

Rev. Geoff Beakley leads our churchwide discussion on Romans 12 and 13.

Week 6

Holiness of Heart & Life

April 13 - April 19

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

Read Romans 14, 15, and 16

Reflect Use the next page to journal or answer one or all of the following questions.

1. In Romans chapters 13 and 14, Paul describes in a very important way the imperative upon Christ's followers to love one another. This is not new; Jesus is quoted throughout the New Testament giving this as a new commandment (for example John 13:34-35). How do we prioritize and practice loving one another – individually and communally?
2. If hope is related to our unity in love, then where do you see it being realized in your own life and the life of the Church?
3. In what ways has this Lenten season brought clarity about living and sharing Christ with the world?

Reflection Page

Review

Wednesday
April 16
6:30 pm

Rev. Leslie Watkins leads our churchwide discussion on Romans 14, 15, 16.

Prayers

As we study Paul's letter to the church in Rome, we will focus our daily readings and prayers on this significant book of the Bible. If you would like to receive a daily email with a prayer based on our scripture reading, please visit prumc.org/prayer or scan the QR code on this page to subscribe to our email list. Prayers are written by clergy and members of PRUMC.

SUBSCRIBE

Week 1

March 9 - March 15

Sun	Rom 1:1-7
Mon	Rom 1:8-15
Tue	Rom 1:16-25
Wed	Rom 1:26-32
Thu	Rom 2:1-11
Fri	Rom 2: 12-24
Sat	Rom 2: 25-29

Week 2

March 16 - March 22

Sun	Rom 3:1-8
Mon	Rom 3:9-20
Tue	Rom 3:21-31
Wed	Rom 4:1-12
Thu	Rom 4:13-25
Fri	Rom 5:1-11
Sat	Rom 5:12-21

Week 3

March 23 - March 29

Sun	Rom 6:1-11
Mon	Rom 6:12-14
Tue	Rom 6:15-19
Wed	Rom 6:20-23
Thu	Rom 7:1-6
Fri	Rom 7:7-13
Sat	Rom 7:14-25

Week 4

March 30 - April 5

Sun	Rom 8:1-39
Mon	Rom 9:1-18
Tue	Rom 9:19-33
Wed	Rom 10:1-13
Thu	Rom 10:14-21
Fri	Rom 11:1-24
Sat	Rom 11: 25-36

Week 5

April 6 - April 12

Sun	Rom 12:1-8
Mon	Rom 12:1-8
Tue	Rom 12:9-13
Wed	Rom 12:14-21
Thu	Rom 13:1-7
Fri	Rom 13:8-10
Sat	Rom 13:11-14

Week 6

April 13 - April 19

Sun	Rom 14:1-12
Mon	Rom 14:13-23
Tue	Rom 15:1-6
Wed	Rom 15:7-13
Thu	Rom 15:14-33
Fri	Rom 16:1-23
Sat	Rom 16:25-27

Presence

The Way of Salvation
Lenten Worship Series

Ash Wednesday, **March 5**
12:00, 5:00, and 7:00 pm

Sundays, **March 9 - April 13**
8:45, 10:00, and 11:15 am

Holy Thursday, **April 17**
7:00 pm

From the struggle with sin to the assurance of God's unshakable love, Romans lays out the path of salvation with clarity and conviction. This series will challenge us to live faithfully, embrace the freedom Christ offers, and reflect the character of Christ in our daily lives. Join us as we deepen our understanding of God's grace and what it means to walk in the way of salvation.

Mar 5 Romans 1:1-7
Called to Be Saints

Mar 9 Romans 1:8-17
Not Ashamed of the Gospel

Mar 16 Romans 3:21-27
The Line Between Good and Evil

Mar 23 Romans 6:1-14
Christ Has Set You Free

Mar 30 Romans 8:31-39
If God Is for Us...

Apr 6 Romans 12:1-8
The Content of Our Character

Apr 13 Romans 14:1-12
Who Am I to Judge Another?

Apr 17 Romans 6:20-23
The Free Will of God

A Special Lenten Invitation
Midweek Worship & Reunion

Wednesdays, **March 12 - April 9**
12:00 pm, Moore Chapel

During Lent, familiar faces will return to share the Word each week, offering wisdom and inspiration in this holy season. Join us to hear new insight from old friends and to celebrate our strong connections.

Mar 12 Rev. Betsy Lunz

Mar 19 Rev. Phil Schroeder

Mar 26 Rev. Beth Sanders

Apr 2 Rev. Thomas Martin

Apr 9 Rev. Carolyn Stephens

Holy Week Midday Services
Weekdays, **April 14 - April 17**
12:00 pm, Moore Chapel
Each day of Holy Week, PRUMC clergy will offer midday moments of reflection and devotion. Lunch will follow in Grace Hall.

Holy Thursday Choral Eucharist
Thursday, **April 17**
7:00 pm, Sanctuary
We commemorate the Last Supper of Jesus Christ when the sacrament of Holy Communion was established. The PRUMC Chancel Choir and Chamber Singers present music from Handel's *Messiah*.

Good Friday Community Service
Friday, **April 18**
12:00 pm, Peachtree Church
On this solemn day, our community will recall the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross at Calvary.

Gifts & Service

Lent is a season of reflection, sacrifice, and renewal—a time to draw closer to God by serving others in love. At Peachtree Road, we embrace this sacred season as an opportunity to strengthen our community, answering Christ's call to care for the most vulnerable among us.

When we give of ourselves to others, we don't just meet a need—we ignite transformation. Families find security, individuals gain opportunity, and our entire city becomes stronger. In this, we find Christ's light—not just in the lives we touch, but in ourselves as well.

The Lenten Offering

Through our Lenten Offering, we provide vital support to local outreach agencies on the front lines of care—offering food to the hungry, shelter to the homeless, hope to the struggling, and pathways to a brighter future. These organizations depend on our generosity to continue their work, ensuring that those in crisis receive immediate relief and the tools to build lasting stability.

100% of your gift to the PRUMC Lenten Offering goes directly to organizations that provide resources and create lasting change in Atlanta.

To make your gift to the PRUMC Lenten Offering, visit www.prumc.org/give.

The Season of Service

This season, we come together to serve others as the body of Christ. Join us this Lent to make a big impact in a million small ways. We have outreach opportunities for all ages and stages that will make this time meaningful for you and those you help.

To learn more and sign up for a volunteer opportunity, visit prumc.org/local-outreach.

GIVE HERE

VOLUNTEER

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... to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Romans 16:27

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