



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday (this year February 22) and lasts forty days (not including the Sundays). Sundays are excluded because those are the days we remember Jesus' resurrection. Every Sunday is a little celebration of Easter and thus a time of joy.

Historically, the Christian church has recognized Lent as a time to deliberately bring oneself closer to God. Individuals and groups have engaged in Bible study, in mission and service, and in forms of self-denial such as fasting to prepare themselves for Easter.

The forty days of Lent are symbolic of Jesus' time in the wilderness before he began his ministry. During that time, he was tempted in many ways, but stayed true to God's will for his life.

This Wednesday we will join Christians around the world in observing Ash Wednesday with a service in the Sanctuary at 7:00p.m. The scripture and music will point us toward repentance. The imposition of ashes on our foreheads is a reminder of our mortality and dependence on God's love.

Everyone is invited to gather together as we begin a period of reflection and recommitment leading to a celebration of new life in Christ at Easter.