

HERE: *The Color of Lent*
Psalm 32

- i. The color of Lent is purple for repentance. The color of Lent puts us right smack dab in the middle of holy week.
- ii. But we do not need to live **HERE**, in the middle of repentance forever.
- iii. Perhaps this Lenten season we need permission not to give something up but to embrace something that symbolizes new life for us. I give you that permission.
- iv. The Psalms are the prayer book for the Bible, I want to encourage us pastorally to move from giving something up to embracing this amazing life that we have been given in God.
- v. Why?
- vi. Jesus died so that we can live into life **HERE (AQU!)**

WE CAN LIVE INTO THE COLOR OF LENT HERE BY TAKING THESE TWO STEPS....

- I. STEP ONE: ACKNOWLEDGE WE HAVE GIVEN UP QUITE A BIT (V 3)
 - A. Verse three says our “bones wasted away.”
 - B. The physical, emotional, and spiritual effects of giving up so much take their toll.
 - C. How are human beings growing tired and wasting away?
- II. STEP TWO: EMBRACE SOMETHING THAT BRINGS LIFE
 - A. Repentance and forgiveness are an action that is given to us through Christ by the power of the Spirit to the glory of the Godhead.
 - B. It is not a permanent state to live life in.
 1. *Blessed (lucky bum) is the one whose transgressions are forgiven; whose sins are covered. Blessed (lucky bum) is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no conceit (vs.1-2).*
 2. *The Lord’s unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in God. Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous; sing all you who are upright in heart! (vs 10b-11)*
 - C. Be grounded in the **HERE** of this life now, for this is the color and the point of Lent.

ACTION STEPS:

You have permission to live into the joy of life **HERE** and now. Try a few of these ideas or make up your own:

1. Start a new bucket-list hobby (paint, photography, write a poem, learn to surf, etc.).
2. Go to the park and soak in the sun and listen to the birds sing a Gregorian chant.
3. Plant orange poppies as a symbol of new life in Christ.
4. Make a list of 40 people or things that you are thankful for.
5. Call your parents/children/a friend you have lost touch with.
6. Be kind to everyone.
7. Invite someone over to your home and cook a simple meal and ask them to share their story with you.