

Ash Wednesday

February 26, 2020

*Whenever you pray,
go into your room
and shut the door
and pray to
your Father
who is in
secret ...*

Matthew 6:6, NRSV

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

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The Order of Worship

GATHERING

Welcome

Prelude

As the Deer

arr. House

Lighting of the Candles

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, young and old. Sanctify yourselves before the Lord

People: **We gather to hear the word of God.**

Leader: Come, and do not delay. Return to God.

People: **We gather to be in the presence of God.**

Leader: Come, cry out to God. Trust in God's mercy.

All: **We gather to renew our spirits, as we acknowledge our failings before God.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

UMH 269

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Affirmation from 1 Timothy

UMH 889

OPENING PRAYER (Seated; in unison)

Ash Wednesday

UMH 353

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Pew Bible, p. 740-741

PRESENTATION OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Lamb of God

Chancel Choir

Paris

*DOXOLOGY

Hymnal p. 94

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

Almighty God, we come before you tonight to offer you far more than our money. We offer our very lives to you, as a living sacrifice. We offer our naked and honest selves, for you delight not only in praise, but also in repentance. We offer our failings and faults, for you desire not only glory, but also confession of our sorrow and our sin. Lord of Life, take the whole of our offering this night, for you have the power to make it beautiful and whole in your sight. Amen.

*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Pew Bible, p.787

*HYMN OF PREPERATION

You Are My Hiding Place

TFWS (black book) 2055

ASH WEDNESDAY MEDITATION

Pastor George

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

A PSALM OF CONFESSION

Psalms 51:1-17, Response 1

UMH 785-786

ABSOLUTION

Leader: The almighty and merciful God, Source of our salvation in Christ, who desires not the death of a sinner but rather that we turn from wickedness and live; accept our repentance, forgive our sins, and restore us by the Holy Spirit to newness of life.

People: **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES (together)

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth; Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT

What Wondrous Love Is This

UMH 292

*BENEDICTION

Leader: With the ash of repentance, we have entered Lent.

People: **With contrite hearts, we await our Lord.**

Leader: Go forth and make preparations to receive the power of God.

*POSTLUDE

Give Me Jesus

African American Spiritual

**Please rise in posture or spirit*

Bold print: in unison

TFWS: The Faith We Sing

UMH: U.M. Hymnal

W&S: Worship and Song