

March 1, 2017

Ash Wednesday

7:00 p.m.

UMH p. 94

**ENTRANCE**

**GATHERING**

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Leader:* The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Leader:* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People:* **God's mercy endures forever.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE** *As We Gather/The Steadfast Love of the Lord*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Insert  
UMH p. 888

**OPENING PRAYER** (*Seated and in unison*)

**O God, maker of everything and judge of all that you have made,  
from the dust of the earth you have formed us  
and from the dust of death you would raise us up.**

**By the redemptive power of the cross,  
create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit,  
that we may repent of our sins and lead lives worthy of your calling;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON**

*Joel 2:1-2, 12-17*

Pew Bible, p. 740, 741

**SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS/ PASTORAL PRAYER**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom 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 kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**PRESENTATION OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY:** *Open Thou Mine Eyes* by B. Harlan, Chancel Choir

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**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*)

**Blessed God, you have called us to contribute to the needs of the saints  
and to extend hospitality to strangers.**

**Hallow these gifts that they may be a blessing to many in your name. Amen.**

**\*HYMN OF PREPARATION** *O How He Loves You and Me*

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Isaiah 59:12-20*

**SERMON**

*Ash Wednesday*

TFWS p. 2108

Pew Bible p. 602

Rev. Cliff Webner

**INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE**

*Pastor:*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: The early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection. It became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation. During this season, converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church. In this way, the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith. 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. To make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us bow before our Creator and Redeemer as we pray the confession together.

**CONFESSION** (*unison*)

**Most merciful God,**

**we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,**

**by things we have done, and by things we have left undone.**

**There have been times when we have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**There have been times when we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.**

**There have been times when we have not loved ourselves**

**the way you have taught us.**

**We are truly sorry and humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;**

**that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,**

**to the glory of your name. Amen.**

**PARDON**

*Pastor*

May the almighty and merciful God,  
who desires not the death of a sinner but that we turn from wrongdoing and live,  
accept your repentance, forgive your sins,  
and restore you by the Holy Spirit to newness of life. Amen.

**SENDING FORTH**

**\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT**

*Amazing Grace*

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**\*CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD**

**\*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

**\*POSTLUDE**

**\*GOING FORTH**

**Liturgist:** Cheryl Wagner-Koogler

\* *Please rise in posture or spirit*      *UMH: U.M. Hymnal*

***Bold print: in unison***  
*W&S: Worship and Song*

*TFWS: The Faith We Sing*

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

Matthew 6:6, NRSV

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Join us for the following  
 worship, education, and fellowship opportunities  
 during Lent:

**Mondays, March 6, 13, 20, 27**    **Pastor's Lenten Bible Study**    **Parlor**  
 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, March 24**    **Fish and Chicken Fry**    **Fellowship Hall**  
 6:00 p.m.  
 Adults: \$12; Children \$10  
 Tickets available from Church Office

**Sunday, April 9**    **Sunday School**    **Classrooms**  
 9 a.m. (all ages)

**Palm Sunday Worship Service**    **Sanctuary**  
 10:00 a.m.

**Thursday, April 13**    **Holy Thursday Service**    **Sanctuary**  
 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, April 14**    **Good Friday Tenebrae Service**    **Sanctuary**  
 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, April 16**    **Easter Sunrise Service**    **Front Steps**  
 6:30 a.m.

**Egg hunt for the children**    **Auditorium**  
 during Sunday School – 9 a.m.

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