



CROSSROADS

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Connecting People • Igniting Hearts • Transforming Lives

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

March 2, 2022

Prelude

Carly Ochoa

Call to Worship

One Voice: "Even now, declares the Lord, return to me with all your heart."
(Joel 2:12)

ALL: Roll up your sleeves.

One Voice: Let down your guard.

ALL: Come in from the storm.

One Voice: Make yourself at home.

ALL: Pull up to the table.

One Voice: Release the tension in your jaw. Take a deep breath. Return to God with all your heart.

ALL: May it be so.

Ash Wednesday Prayer (*unison*)

Loving Creator, we are here, telling stories of dust. We are here, trying to shake the dust out of our ears so that we might hear you clearly. We are here, hoping that showing up is the first step in returning to you. Scoop us up in your embrace and carry us to a place of truth. Clear the smog that makes it hard to see. Clear the dust that makes it hard to hear. We are at the edge of our seats. We are listening for you. Amen.

Welcome

Opening Hymn

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Original Testament Lesson

Psalm 51

Liturgist: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

People: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Liturgist: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

People: Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

Liturgist: Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.



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People: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Liturgist: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

People: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

Liturgist: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

People: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Liturgist: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

People: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Liturgist: Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

People: Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

Liturgist: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

People: For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

Liturgist: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-27

An Ash Wednesday Reflection

With All That You Are

Pastor Scott Walters

Praise

Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed

Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline

Thanksgiving over the Ashes

All: Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you have created us. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer



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Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen.

Marking with Ashes

[Those who wish are invited to come to the front of the sanctuary to receive ashes on the forehead. Ashes serve as a sign of human mortality and penitence and as a reminder that only by God's grace are we given eternal life.]

Praise

Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes

Benediction

Postlude



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