

Center United Methodist Church

Ash Wednesday ONLINE

February 22, 2023

Live Online @ 7 pm

Experience the blessing of Ash Wednesday even if you can't be present at one of our in-person services. The service below and these ashes have been prepared and prayed over so that you can share with your family or in holy solitude and remember that though we are made of simple dust and fail often to live lovingly in community, God's love in Jesus makes new life possible even out of the ashes of our lives.

Worship with us online live @ 7pm or use this service anytime on Wednesday to experience the transforming power of God's love.

CALL TO WORSHIP

A Wilderness Wandering People

WELCOME

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

*HYMN

Just As I Am

UMH 357

*OPENING PRAYER

God, we must admit that we don't like Ash Wednesday. We would rather skip the penitence and soul-searching of Lent and skip right to the joy of Easter morning. The world teaches us that mistakes are awful and should be covered up at all costs. We learn to blame others instead of owning up to what we do and the pain we inflict.

Lord God, give us strength in this time of Lent to ask for forgiveness for the hurt we cause and the mistakes we make. Remind us that the difficulties of life form and shape us. Teach us how to turn back to you, to love our neighbor, and to reach out to those who suffer.

Loving God, we know Jesus spent forty days in the desert preparing for his ministry to the world. We ask that you use these forty days of Lent to prepare us for our mission to the world in Jesus' name. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

HYMN

Take My Life and Let It Be

UMH 399

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 58:1-12

MEDITATION

Is This the Fast That I Choose?

Rev. Rennie Salata

*IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

(Place your thumb or forefinger into the ashes and then use the tip of your finger to make the sign of the cross on your forehead repeating the phrase "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return" If you are with others, it is best to apply ashes on each other's foreheads)

CONFESSION & PARDON

Psalm 51:1-17

UMH 785

Hear and believe the good news of the gospel: no matter how many times we fall, no matter how many times we choose the wrong path, God is there for us to gather us up with open arms.

We are forgiven. We are invited. We belong. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

*SONG OF RECONCILIATION

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

UMH 557

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

*HYMN

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

UMH 269

*DISMISSAL W/ BLESSING

As you leave this place, may God bless you with seeking.

Seek out the hungry.

Seek the weary.

Seek the good in every person you pass.

Seek out the hopeful.

Seek the faithful.

Seek God in each of us.

As we seek and as we wonder, we trust that we will find what we are looking for. In the name of our loving God, who is always seeking us, we go now in peace. Amen!

All depart in silence.

** You are invited to stand, as you are able.*

A Wilderness Wandering People 3113

Flowing (♩ = 80)

C F/G C F/G

1. We are a
(2. — May we)

5 C G/B Am Dm Am

wil - der-ness wan - dering peo - ple on a jour - ney of the
che - rish all our chil - dren, let us heal our fam - ily's

8 G Em7 Am Dm7 F

soul. May we find our des - ti - na - tion in our long - ing to be
pain. Help us cure our cit - y's mad - ness, let love and jus - tice

12 Gsus G C G/B Am Dm7 C/E

whole. Our Ho - ly God is call - ing to us. With Je - sus by our
reign. — Rec-on - ciled with one an - oth - er in prayer and praise and

16 Gsus G C G/B F/A

side may com - pas - sion be our com - pass; may the
song, we're the bod - y of Christ to - geth - er and we

19 Dm7

1 Gsus G Gsus G 2 Gsus G

Spir - it be our guide. _____ 2. May we long, we be -
know that we be -

23 C F/G C F/G rit. C

long, _____ we be - long, _____ we be - long.

Just as I Am, Without One Plea

1. Just as I am, with - out one plea,
 2. Just as I am, and wait - ing not
 3. Just as I am, though tossed a - bout
 4. Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind;
 5. Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive,
 6. Just as I am, thy love un - known

but that thy blood was shed for me,
 to rid my soul of one dark blot,
 with many a con - flict, many a doubt,
 sight, rich - es, heal - ing of the mind,
 wilt wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve;
 hath bro - ken ev - ery bar - rier down;

and that thou bidst me come to thee,
 to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
 fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 yea, all I need in thee to find,
 be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
 now, to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

Refrain

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

399

Take My Life, and Let It Be

1. Take my life, and let it be con - se - cra - ted,
 2. Take my voice, and let me sing al - ways, on - ly,
 3. Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no

Lord, to thee. Take my mo - ments and my days;
 for my King. Take my lips, and let them be
 long - er mine. Take my heart, it is thine own;

let them flow in cease - less praise. Take my hands, and
 filled with mes - sag - es from thee. Take my sil - ver
 it shall be thy roy - al throne. Take my love, my

let them move at the im - pulse of thy love.
 and my gold; not a mite would I with - hold.
 Lord, I pour at thy feet its trea - sure - store.

Take my feet, and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 Take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.
 Take my-self, and I will be ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
 2. Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our
 3. We share each oth - er's woes, our mu - tual
 4. When we a - sun - der part, it gives us

Chris - tian love; the fel - low - ship of
 ar - dent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
 bur - dens bear; and of - ten for each
 in - ward pain; but we shall still be

kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
 aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
 oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

WORDS: John Fawcett, 1782
 MUSIC: Johann G. Nägeli; arr. by Lowell Mason, 1845

DENNIS
 SM

O God our deliverer, you led your people of old through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide now the people of your church, that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

The Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978

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Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days 269

1. Lord, who through-out these for-ty days for
 2. As thou with Sa-tan didst con-tend, and
 3. As thou didst hun-ger bear, and thirst, so
 4. And through these days of pen-i-tence, and
 5. A-bide with us, that so, this life of

us didst fast and pray, teach us with thee to
 didst the vic-tory win, O give us strength in
 teach us, gra-cious Lord, to die to self, and
 through thy pas-sion-tide, yea, ev-er-more in
 suf-fering o-ver past, an Eas-ter of un-

mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.
 thee to fight, in thee to con-quer sin.
 chief-ly live by thy most ho-ly word.
 life and death, Je-sus, with us a-bide.
 end-ing joy we may at-tain at last.

WORDS: Claudia F. Herraman, 1873 (Mt. 4:1-11; Mk. 1:12-13; Lk. 4:1-13)
 MUSIC: USA folk melody; arr. by Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938;
 harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1988

LAND OF REST
 CM

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