

From dust
you were
created.

To dust
you shall
return.

- Genesis 3:19



ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP
MARCH 2, 2022, 6 P.M.

All Are Welcome

Whether you are a guest or member, we invite you to register your attendance (scan the QR code in the pew) so we know you're here and we can get to know you better.

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GATHERING

**Please stand as you are comfortable.
Bold indicates congregational response.*

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Larry Norman

*Call to Worship

Rev. Norman

The grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with you.

And with your spirit.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

God's mercy endures forever.

*Hymn

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days
The United Methodist Hymnal 269, vs. 1, 4, 5

Prayer

Rev. Bernadine Johnson

Dear God,

**this night help us feel as though
we are gathering with the saints of all ages,
who discovered that it is only through
honest confession of sin to you
that one can become more than a sinner.**

**Our eyes see beyond my innocence,
so we know that yours do, too.**

Your mercy encourages.

Your forgiveness cleanses.

Your love saves.

May these forty days until Easter

**be a season in which we keep my promises to you,
through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

- by John Winn, adapted from *For All Seasons*

Musical Meditation

Come Now, O Prince of Peace
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2232, vs. 1

**Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one body,
come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.**

Ancient Reading

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Rev. Norman

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Musical Meditation

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2232, vs. 2

**Come now, O God of love; make us one body,
come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.**

Modern Reading

Rev. Johnson

“Rend Your Heart”

A Blessing for Ash Wednesday

by Rev. Jan Richardson

To receive this blessing,
all you have to do
is let your heart break.
Let it crack open.
Let it fall apart
so that you can see
its secret chambers,
the hidden spaces
where you have hesitated
to go.
Your entire life
is here, inscribed whole
upon your heart's walls:
every path taken
or left behind,
every face you turned toward
or turned away,
every word spoken in love
or in rage,
every line of your life
you would prefer to leave
in shadow,
every story that shimmers
with treasures known
and those you have yet
to find.
It could take you days
to wander these rooms.
Forty, at least.
And so let this be
a season for wandering,
for trusting the breaking,
for tracing the rupture
that will return you
to the One who waits,
who watches,
who works within
the rending
to make your heart
whole.

Modern Meditation

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2232, vs. 3

**Come now and set us free, O God our Savior,
come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.**

Psalm 51:1-17

The United Methodist Hymnal 785, Resp. 1

SUNG RESPONSE

**Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

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

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you, you only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in
your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless in
your judgement.

**Behold, I was born into iniquity, and I have been sinful since
my mother conceived me.**

SUNG RESPONSE

Behold, you desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me
wisdom in my secret heart.

**Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow;**

make me hear with joy and gladness; let the bones which you have
broken rejoice.

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

SUNG RESPONSE

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

**Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your holy
Spirit from me.**

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

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

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

**O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth
your praise.**

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

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

SUNG RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Johnson

**May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts
be acceptable in thy sight, thou who art our strength and our
redeemer. Amen.**

Based on Psalm 19

Gospel Reading

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Rev. Johnson

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Witness to the Word

Rev. Johnson

***Hymn**

Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2138, vs. 1

Invitation to the Lenten Journey

Rev. Johnson

When we think of Lent, we often think of what we will give up or go without. But Lent is not simply about trying to suffer in order to align ourselves with Christ's suffering. Instead it is about trying to align our life with the life of Christ – living as Christ lived.

This year, we invite you to think through what you want to step away from or leave behind during this Lenten time. Or perhaps there is something you want to move toward. Think through how your Lenten discipline can bolster your spiritual life, make the world a better place, or cultivate a life lived like Christ's.

We invite you to write these down on the gray paper insert in your worship guide. When you come forward for the imposition of ashes, we invite you to place your insert in the bowl. Pastor Lane will pray over these throughout Lent so that no one is walking their Lenten journey alone.

Anthem

Ah, Holy Jesus
Lois Rushing on oboe

Litany of Penitence

Rev. Norman

Most holy and merciful God:

**We confess to you and to one another, that we have sinned by
our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ.

We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, O Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness:
the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives.

We confess to you, O Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of
other people.

We confess to you, O Lord.

Our unrestrained love of worldly goods and comforts, and our
dishonesty in daily life and work.

We confess to you, O Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the
faith that is in us.

We confess to you, O Lord.

Accept our repentance, O Lord, for the wrongs we have done:
for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to
injustice and cruelty.

Accept our repentance, O Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,
and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us.

Accept our repentance, O Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for
those who come after us.

Accept our repentance, O Lord.

Restore us, O Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

Hear us, O Lord, for your mercy endures forever.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of our Lord,

Bring us with all your saints to the joy of resurrection.

Grant us, O God, true repentance and your Holy Spirit, that our actions
this day might please you, that our lives might be pure and holy, that we
may know eternal joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Musical Meditation

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2232, vs. 4

**Come, Hope of unity, make us one body,
come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all nations.**

Prayer Over the Ashes

Rev. Norman

Almighty God,

You have created us out of the dust of the earth.

**Grant that these ashes may be a sign of our mortality
and penitence, so that we may remember that only
by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

***Imposition of Ashes**

Rev. Norman

Those who wish are invited to come forward to receive ashes either on the forehead or the back of the hand. Ashes serve as a sign of human mortality and penitence and as a reminder that only by God's grace in Jesus Christ are we given eternal life. Ashes are imposed with the words

*"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return"
(Genesis 3:19).*

Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Norman

***Hymn of Commitment**

Shalom to You (2x)
The United Methodist Hymnal 666

***Benediction**

Rev. Johnson

***Postlude**

Holy Week Worship

Our Holy Week worship experiences commemorate Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Join Jesus in his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, his last gathering with his disciples on Maundy Thursday, his sacrifice and sorrow on Good Friday, and his glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday. As you journey through Holy Week with St. John's UMC, may you discover a richer, joy-filled Easter.

Palm Sunday
April 10, 8:30 and 11 a.m.
In-person and online

Celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Children and the young at heart are invited to arrive early to line up for the Palm Processional which will happen at the beginning of both services.

Maundy Thursday
April 14, 6 p.m.
In-person and online

On Maundy Thursday we will remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples, the evening before his crucifixion, and will partake in a night of blessing and Holy Communion. Join us for this engaging worship service at 6 p.m. in our sanctuary and online.

Good Friday
April 15, 6 p.m.
In-person and online

Our Good Friday worship service, "The Long and Winding Road to the Cross" will weave together the traditional Good Friday readings about Jesus' final hours, his crucifixion, and his death, along with time for reflection and prayer. Join us for this solemn worship service at 6 p.m. in our sanctuary and online.

Easter Sunday
April 17, 8:30 and 11 a.m.
In-person and online

Celebrate the glory of Christ's resurrection on Easter at our regular worship times in the sanctuary and online.