

ASH WEDNESDAY

6:30PM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, during which Christians are called to reflect upon the reality of our lives with all of its' brokenness; to repent of our failures and shortcomings; and to remember the hope offered to us in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Please gather in silence and prayer.

GATHERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ* J. S. Bach

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively):

L: Return to the Lord your God,

P: FOR GOD IS GRACIOUS.

L: Confess to the Lord your God,

P: FOR GOD IS MERCIFUL.

L: Repent to the Lord your God,

P: FOR GOD IS SLOW TO ANGER.

L: Praise the Lord your God,

P: FOR GOD ABOUND IN STEADFAST LOVE.

L: Worship the Lord your God,

P: YES! TOGETHER, LET US WORSHIP GOD!

*OPENING HYMN #359 *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed*

*NEW TESTAMENT LESSON *Romans 7:13-24*

ANTHEM *Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God* Mueller

*GOSPEL LESSON *John 3:16-21*

WITNESS TO THE WORD *"Holy and Loving?"* Rev. L. Kim Eanes

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLE

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

IMPOSITION OF ASHES – HYMN NO. 378 *Amazing Grace*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (IN UNISON):

GOD, THIS IS A HARD TIME. THE FOCUS OF LENT IS ON THE PAIN AND SUFFERING OF JESUS AND OUR OWN NEED FOR PENITENCE. IT IS A TIME OF GATHERING DARKNESS. BUT WE WOULD RATHER SKIP THIS PART AND GO STRAIGHT TO EASTER. WE WOULD RATHER IGNORE THE SUFFERING – IN YOU AND IN THE WORLD – AND AVOID THE HARD WORK OF TRUE SELF-EXAMINATION. FORGIVE US FOR WANTING THIS TO BE BRIGHT AND PAINLESS AND EASY, WHEN WE KNOW THAT JESUS DID NOT TAKE THE EASY WAY, BUT CHOSE THE PATH OF THE CROSS. TEACH US THE TRUE MEANING OF PENITENCE, SO THAT WE USE THIS LENTEN SEASON TO HUMBLY SEEK A CLEAN HEART AND A RENEWED SPIRIT. WE PRAY IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

*CLOSING HYMN #297 *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

*POSTLUDE *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*
American Folk tune/P. Gehring

*Please stand as you are able



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