

ASH WEDNESDAY

6:30PM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022

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: God of salvation's joy, we gather to celebrate and revere You.

P: WE COME, REALIZING THAT WE ARE BROKEN. FORGIVE AND RE-CREATE US.

L: God of unfailing love, we gather to worship and honor You.

P: WE COME, AND BECAUSE OF YOUR COMPASSION, FORGIVE AND RENEW US.

L: God of new beginnings, we gather to praise and thank You.

P: WE COME, AND THROUGH YOUR GRACE AND MERCY, FORGIVE AND RESTORE US,
SO THAT, WITH CLEAN HEARTS, WE MAY TRULY WORSHIP YOU.

ALL: AMEN.

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

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN *Heather Connor*

*A LESSON FROM THE PSALMS *Psalms 51* NIV

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

*NEW TESTAMENT LESSON *1 John 3:11-24* CEB

WITNESS TO THE WORD *Love Is the Purpose* Rev. L. Kim Eanes

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsively):

L: God of the blazing chariots, the whirling wind, the sacred silence, listen softly to the confessions of our hearts ...

(Silence)

L: Create clean hearts in us.

P: RENEW RIGHT SPIRITS WITHIN US.

L: Shelter us within Your presence.

P: SUSTAIN US BY YOUR HOLY SPIRIT. RESTORE US TO THE JOY OF OUR SALVATION.

L: Blazing, whirling, sacred God ...

P: INHABIT AND TRANSFORM OUR STORIES. AMEN.

PRAYER OF ASSURANCE

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

IMPOSITION OF ASHES – TFWS#2237 *As a Fire Is Meant for Burning*

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

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

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

*POSTLUDE *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* American Folk tune

*Please stand as you are able