



## Ash Wednesday Worship

### First Day of Lent

March 5, 2025

7:00 pm

**Prelude**

*Lamb of God*

Twila Paris, arr. Lloyd Larson

**Welcome**

Rev. Beth Freese Dammers

### Opening Sentences

One: If you have days when you feel a little bit lost and a little bit found,

**All: then you are in the right place.**

One: If you have days when you are desperate for rest and eager to grow,

**All: then you are in the right place.**

One: If you have days when your prayers could be both shouts and silence,

**All: then you are in the right place.**

One: God meets us here, in the messy middle of our lives.

**All: so may we bring our full selves into this service and into this season.**

One: With God's help, may it be so.

**All: Let us worship our all-loving God.**

**\*Hymn 423**

*Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God*

SARADAY

**Prayer for Inspiration**

## Scripture Reading

Psalm 51:1-4, 7-13

One: Have mercy on me, God, according to your faithful love!

Wipe away my wrongdoings according to your great compassion!

**All: <sup>2</sup> Wash me completely clean of my guilt; purify me from my sin!**

**<sup>3</sup> Because I know my wrongdoings, my sin is always right in front of me.**

One: <sup>4</sup> I've sinned against you—you alone. I've committed evil in your sight.

That's why you are justified when you render your verdict, completely correct when you issue your judgment.

**All: <sup>7</sup> Purify me with hyssop and I will be clean; wash me and I will be whiter than snow.**

One: <sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and celebration again; let the bones you crushed rejoice once more.

<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins; wipe away all my guilty deeds!

**All: <sup>10</sup> Create a clean heart for me, God; put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me!**

One: <sup>11</sup> Please don't throw me out of your presence; please don't take your holy spirit away from me.

**All: <sup>12</sup> Return the joy of your salvation to me and sustain me with a willing spirit.**

**<sup>13</sup> Then I will teach wrongdoers your ways, and sinners will come back to you.**

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word! This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## Scripture Reading

Luke 9:51-62

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word! This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## Meditation

Beth

## Anthem

*Create in me a Clean Heart, O God*

John Mochnick

Chancel Choir

## Litany of Confession

One: Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, mind and strength. We fail to love all neighbors as ourselves. And we hold onto hurts and grudges, making it impossible to forgive others as we have been forgiven.

**All: Have mercy on us, O God.**

One: We ignore your call to serve as Christ served us. We have dismissed the nudges of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Have mercy on us, O God.**

One: We confess all our past unfaithfulness. For the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

**All: have mercy on us, O God.**

One: For our self-indulgent ways and our exploitation of other people,

**All: have mercy on us, O God.**

One: For our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**All: have mercy on us, O God.**

One: For our reliance and persistence in seeking comfort from worldly goods and our inability to resist addictions,

**All: have mercy on us, O God.**

One: For our negligence in prayer and worship, and the many ways we push aside the faith that is in us,

**All: have mercy on us, O God.**

One: Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**All: have mercy on us, O God.**

One: For the ways we jump to conclusions, make false judgements, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

**All: have mercy on us, O God.**

One: Restore us, O God of our salvation, and show us your steadfast love.

**All: Turn to us in your mercy and redeem us.**

## Imposition of Ashes

\*Hymn 451 v 1-2

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*

OPEN MY EYES

## Holy Communion

Rev. Beth Freese Dammers

### Invitation to the Table

### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: *(prayer continues)*

...Therefore with all creation we sing your praise:



One: (prayer continues)  
...Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

(prayer continues)

### Lord's Prayer (unison, using "sins")

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

### The Breaking of the Bread

#### \*Communion of the People

*All are invited to come to the table using the center aisle and return via the outside aisles.*

*The center station offers allergen-free wafers and prepackaged communion elements.*

*Any with mobility challenges will be served in the pews.*

#### \*Communion Music

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

arr. John Carter

### Prayer after Communion

#### \*Hymn 740

*Lead Me, Guide Me*

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

#### \*Charge and Blessing

**... All depart in silence...**

*\* Please rise in spirit or body*

**All speak emboldened type**

**AV:** Ken Monson, Liz Monson

**COMMUNION SERVERS:** Gregg Morton, Michele Vickery



## Tell me more about Ash Wednesday...

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with a public act of confession. Acknowledging that we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory, we repent and return to our loving Creator. Acutely aware of our failure and frailty, we express our utter reliance on God's saving grace.

Ash Wednesday developed in the medieval period as a time when penitent sinners were presented for church discipline during the season of Lent, to be reconciled with the community of faith on Maundy Thursday. Ash Wednesday also came to be the occasion for new believers to enroll in the catechumenate, a period of preparation for baptism at Easter.

Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance, sorrow, and sacrifice. Traditionally, the ashes for this service are made from the palm branches of previous years; thus the ashes and palms together frame the season of Lent.

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### Adult Education for Lent: Turning Over Tables!

Sunday morning classes during Lent will make use of the book ***Turning Over Tables: A Lenten Call for Disrupting Power***, by Kathy Escobar.

Comments from the publisher, Westminster John Knox Press: "From flipping the moneychangers' tables in the temple to uplifting the poor and marginalized, Jesus' actions and words turn the world's idea of power on its head."

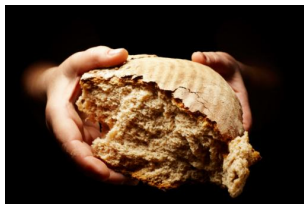


This book has daily readings throughout Lent and Easter. It asks us as individuals to consider how we can challenge power when it is appropriate as Christians to do so.

For the study to be most effective and satisfying, each of us will need to work through the book on our own each week. Then we will meet together on Sunday morning and discover more together. Please join us in this journey!

Books are now available in the church office. Please pick up your copy and begin your study. Our first class will be March 16 and will cover the first three chapters of the book.

As always, Adult Education meets on Sunday mornings 10:45 - 11:45 am in the Chapel and on Zoom.



**Contemplative Worship and Communion  
Wednesdays in Lent  
March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9  
6:30 - 6:55 pm  
Gathering Room / Zoom**

Pausing for 25 minutes to listen to scripture, poetry, examine and ponder art and share in communion may be just what you need this year. Open yourself to the Spirit and trust you will meet God in the midst of the extremes of our everyday life.



## Lenten Theme

The liturgical season of Lent through Easter Sunday will have us focusing on the Gospel of Luke. Beginning with Jesus setting his face toward Jerusalem (Luke 9:51), we will hear several familiar stories - the Good Samaritan, Mary and Martha, the fruitless fig tree, the Lost Sheep, Zacchaeus and more. In studying these scriptures we will find, once again, that Jesus' ministry was rooted in relationships that disrupted the established social, political and religious divides of his time. As modern readers, we sometimes lose the "shock factor" behind Jesus' words, as his teaching tactics likely felt extreme for those in his context. He described a stigmatized Samaritan as a good neighbor. He emphasized the value of 1 sheep in a herd of 100. He dined with a tax collector who amassed wealth through extortion. While dying on the cross, he told a convicted criminal he would soon find paradise. Jesus intentionally highlighted the cultural and political polarities of his time to emphasize the radical, inclusive, and surprising love of God. When we study these stories in their historical and cultural context, we see how they mirror the culture and political divides many of us experience in our families, churches and communities today.

All are invited to navigate the polarities of life with more faith, intention, and openness to be transformed. Each weekly sub-theme explores two supposed binaries, like "faith & works" or "rest & growth," or "grief & hope." Come and explore for we just may find that God is present in between.

Ash Wednesday	intention & action	Luke: 9:51-62
1st Sunday of Lent:	stranger & neighbor	Luke: 10:25-37
2nd Sunday of Lent:	faith & works	Luke: 10:38-42
3rd Sunday of Lent:	rest & growth	Luke: 13:6-9
4th Sunday of Lent:	lost & found	Luke: 15:1-7
5th Sunday of Lent:	righteousness & mercy	Luke 19:1-10
Palm/ Passion Sunday:	shouting & silence	Luke 19:29-40
Good Friday:	acceptance & resistance	Luke 23:32-49
Easter Sunday:	grief & hope	Luke 24:1-12

## Logo Meaning

In the logo, the two hands reaching toward each other represent our longing for connection despite the politics, assumptions, beliefs, and narratives that divide us. The hands look as if they are reaching in for a handshake, but they are paused just before they connect. The negative space in between the hands creates the shape of a doorway, symbolizing hospitality or a pathway forward. The doorway invites us to look for God in the spaces in between. In the typography, the "in" is bracketed, emphasizing the promise that God shows up in surprising ways and unexpected places, but is present in it all. The shape of the hands further echoes the bracket shape. Grammatically, brackets are used to provide additional explanation or information. The brackets around the [in] represent the charge to each of us: to dig deeper into complexity and nuance, to ask questions and stay curious, and to be open to where God might meet us along the way.



## Devotional Books

Take home a Devotional book, found in the narthex and on the credenza near door 5C for your daily study. This booklet follows and compliments the theme and lessons we'll study on Sundays. It includes poetry, scripture, writings, art and prayer.



## RESIST

It's an active word. It takes practice, effort. I heard the command over and over in my daughter's ballet class. After a pirouette, the teacher would call out: "Pause... hold... RESIST."

After a delay, a hanging in the air, the dancers would place their heel gently on the floor and come to a rest. Every turn, every lunge, every grand plie was followed by that same instruction: "Pause... hold... RESIST."

Resist the pull of gravity for just a second.

Resist the urge to land where you normally land.

Resist. It's a command that runs through scripture, from the midwives who resisted Pharaoh to Jesus who resisted temptation.

It's a helpful word for Lent. Resist your typical response. Resist yelling at the kids when you are frustrated. Resist withdrawing when you are depressed and eating when you are stressed. Resist injustice when you see it, cruelty when you hear it.

The season of Lent asks: What do you need to resist? Consumption? Taking on too much? Being too hard on yourself? Hopelessness? Apathy? Turning a blind eye to violence or contempt?

Resist. It takes forty days, and then some. But it begins here, right where we are. Pause... hold... RESIST.

In the 1700s, Marie Durand was imprisoned in France in the Tower of Constance for thirty-eight years for practicing her faith. During her long imprisonment, she used her finger to carve the French word "resiste" into a stone block.

It takes a long time to carve stone with your finger. So it is with Lent.

If our goal is to be different people come Easter Sunday than we are on Ash Wednesday, we must take time, step back, and evaluate our patterns. It will take active effort, intentional practice, and a supportive community.

Do you want to land somewhere different? Do you want all of us, together as a community, to land somewhere different?

Pause... hold... RESIST.

*Written by Rev. Holly McKissick, pastor of Peace Christian Church (UCC)*



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