

Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023



“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Genesis 3:19



SAINT MARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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ASH WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023 | SEVEN O'CLOCK PM

THE GATHERING

THE WELCOME

We welcome each of you to this service! No matter who you are or where you are from, You are a child of God, and you are welcome here!

PRELUDE

Kyrie, God, Creator in Heaven

J. S. Bach

GREETING

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

People: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits.

Minister: Who forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities;

All: Who redeems your life from the grave, and crowns you with mercy and loving kindness.

OPENING PRAYER

Minister: Let us pray:

A brief silence.

Most Holy God, your Son came to save sinners. We come to this season of repentance, confessing our unworthiness, asking for new and honest hearts, and the healing power of your forgiveness. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

*HYMN

TFWS No. 2138 | *Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes*

*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

RESPONSE *from* Psalm 51

Minister: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

People: according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.

Minister: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

People: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Minister: Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,

People: so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

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

People: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

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

People: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;

Minister: a broken and contrite heart,

All: O God, you will not despise.

ANTHEM

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Moses Hogan

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Isaiah 58:1-12*

MESSAGE

BURNING OF THE PALM LEAF

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Let us pray:

All: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father (God), 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN

UMH No. 269 | *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Those who do not wish to remain to pray may depart in silence.

**Where indicated, please rise in body or spirit.*

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Preaching: Rev. Jess Cusick, Pastor of Youth and Young Adults
Liturgists: Rev. Carolyn Stephens, Senior Pastor
Sheila Stephens, Minister of Education and Spiritual Formation
Music: Jon Easter, Director of Fine Arts and Organist

MILK MONEY | During the season of Lent, many Christians reverently engage in practices that anchor them deeper in their faith. Some choose to let go of certain habits they do throughout the year, so they can take on others that enrich their lives more fully. Some persons have let go of drinking coffee or eating pastries, some have let go of going to the movies or shopping online for nonessential items, and they give the funds they would have used for coffee, sweets, movies, or nonessential items to missions or another ministry that positively impacts the lives of others.

For Lent 2023, I am inviting Saint Mark to participate in this Lenten exercise. We invite you to let go of a habit you would have done regularly throughout the week, and for each time you would have engaged in that habit make a donation equivalent to what it would have cost you. For example, if you would have purchased a latte/mocha cappuccino in the morning, let go of the ingrained habit. Instead, commit the amount you would have paid for it to mission/ministry. The same if you would have gone to the movies, or eating sweets.

There are cartons labeled "Milk Money" that will be distributed during worship February 26 and March 5, in which you can put the funds you would have used. If you are like me and rarely use cash, you can make a note of the amount you would have spent, and put it in the carton, so you can tally the amount in full later and submit the funds. You can even give online, labeling your gift as "milk money." We will be collecting the cartons in worship Easter morning. We will pray over them and give them directly to the designated areas of mission.

I will be doing mine. I hope you will join in and do yours, also. *Pastor Carolyn*