



**Washington Street
United Methodist Church**
Pre-Videoed in Christ Chapel and Courtyard

February 17, 2021

Ash Wednesday

PRELUDE

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE & OPENING PRAYER

The following or similar words may be spoken:

ONE: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:
the early Christians observed with great devotion
the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection,
and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration
there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation.
During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism.
It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins
and had separated themselves from the community of faith
were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness,
and restored to participation in the life of the Church.
In this way the whole congregation was reminded
of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ
and the need we all have to renew our faith.
I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church,
to observe a holy Lent:
by self-examination and repentance;
by prayer, fasting, and self-denial;
and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.
To make a right beginning of repentance,
Let us join our hearts in prayer.

ALL: **O God, maker of everything and judge of all that you have made,
from the dust of the earth you have formed us and from the dust of
death you would raise us up.
By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and
put within us a new spirit, that we may repent of our sins and lead
lives worthy of your calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. ***

HYMN 269
(vs. 1, 3, 4)

"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

LAND OF REST

1. Lord, who throughout these forty days
for us didst fast and pray,
teach us with thee to mourn our sins
and close by thee to stay.

3. As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst,
so teach us, gracious Lord,
to die to self, and chiefly live
by thy most holy word.

4. And through these days of penitence,
and through thy passiontide,
yea, evermore in life and death,
Jesus, with us abide.

Madeline Beitel, mezzo soprano; Louis Shirer, organ

Words: Claudia F. Hernaman, 1873;

Music: *Land of Rest*, USA folk melody; arr. Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938

PSALM 51

SOLO

Give Me Jesus

arr. by Moses Hogan

Madeline Beitel, mezzo soprano; Louis Shirer, piano

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

CONFESSION AND PARDON

ONE: The first proclamation of our Lord included these words: "Repent and believe the gospel. Therefore, let us confess our sin as a sign of true repentance:

**ALL: Our great and awesome God,,
whose voice we hear in the winds,
and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear us, we pray.
We come before you as your children.
We are small and weak; we need your strength and wisdom.
Let us walk in beauty
and make our eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset with
thanksgiving.
May our hands respect the things you have made,
our ears be sharp to hear your voice.
Make us wise,
so that we may know the things you have taught your people,
the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.
We seek strength not to be superior to our brothers and sisters,
but to live in harmony with ourselves and all of your creation.
Help us to be ever ready to come to you,
so when life fades as a fading sunset,
our spirits may come to you without shame. Amen.**

(TRADITIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN PRAYER)*

ONE: May the almighty and merciful God, who created us from the dust of the earth and who from the dirt of sin raises us to new life, accept our repentance, forgive our sins, and restore us by the Holy Spirit to newness of life. Amen.

MEDITATION

"TENDING THE SOIL...TENDING THE SOUL"

Rev. Parrish

THANKSGIVING OVER THE SOIL

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that our tending of the soil may be a reminder of your gift of life and that we may daily remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Savior, through Whom we pray. **Amen.**

HYMN 707

"Hymn of Promise"

PROMISE

(vs. 1 & 3)

1. In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

3. In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Madeline Beitel, mezzo soprano; Louis Shirer, organ

Words: Natalie Sleeth, 1986; Music: *Promise*, Natalie Sleeth, 1986

BENEDICTION

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