

## Ash Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 ~ St. Mark's United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz  
Pastor

Ann Rodewald  
Organist

Kathy Jurk  
Choir Director

Meditative Music  
Bells Ring Prelude  
Gathering for Worship

*Go to Dark Gethsemane*

### Introduction to Ash Wednesday

#### Call to Worship (responsively):

L: God, we are in need of cleansing – our hearts, our minds, and our souls.

P: For you, Lord God, are able. Able to erase our wrongs. Scrub away our guilt. You are the one able to wash us clean from our sins.

L: God, you are merciful and compassionate. Your love is everlasting.

P: We have ever done wrong; even today we turn from you and let ourselves be led away from you.

L: We pause now, Lord, to confess our sins to you.

P: You are faithful to forgive.

#### Opening Prayer (together):

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. *Amen.*

#### Hymn of Praise: (#47 Binder)

*Gather Us In*

#### A Prayer of Submission:

God, create in us clean hearts and renew your spirit within us. Please do not take your spirit away from us; restore to us the joy of your salvation. Be willing, O God, to keep us in your tender care. Deliver us, Lord, and free us from ourselves – our desires and our biases; our worship of false idols and our turnings from you. Help us, Father, to use our lives as a testament to your transformational power. Allow your Holy Spirit to redirect us when we begin to wallow back to the former. We want to be used in your service. Lord, we yield ourselves to you. *Amen.*

#### Words of Assurance (together):

God, you remind us in your word that when we are in Christ, we are new creatures, and the old things pass away. This Ash Wednesday we take hold of your promise: Renew us, Lord: a new walk, a new talk, a new mind, a new heart, a new life. Through Christ we can truly be made new again. *Amen.*

#### Song of Assurance: (#207 Hymnal)

*Jesus Calls Us*

#### Scripture Reading:

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

#### Message:

*Yet Even Now*

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

#### St. Mark's Choir:

*This Do in Remembrance of Me*

#### Offering

Offering, tithes and gifts can be made before or after worship in the offering baskets/plates at the welcome area of the church. St. James is also set up to take on-line offerings through the website (stmstjucc.org).

#### Offertory Music:

*Near to the Heart of God*

*~ The offering is brought to the altar ~*

#### Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (together):

Almighty and gracious God, we pray for your blessing today. As we come to give you our tithes and offerings, we ask that you bless us in return. Cause the windows of heaven to open and pour out showers of blessings as you promised. Bless our jobs and businesses with prosperity so that we may keep earning money to support not only our families but your kingdom's work. O God, bless us that we might bless others. Fulfill your word in our lives today. *Amen.*

#### A Time of Silent Reflection and Prayer:

A clean heart, create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Give to me, O Lord, a heart that I will understand you are the great I AM, Lord, Creator, Giver of Life, Sustainer and Redeemer, Breath of Life. Give to me a heart filled with passion, compassion, love, mercy and forgiveness for you are our Lord, God Almighty. We shall be your people and you will be our God. We return now, with renewed heart and spirit. Here our voice on this day.

#### Imposition of Ashes:

##### Holy Communion:

*[For the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion: You will be called to the front where you will receive your sign of the cross in ash. The pastor will use a que-tip to administer the cross on the back of your hand. After you have received your blessing, proceed to the Communion Table, and pick up your communion elements. Take these back to your seat.*

*Pastor will then lead the Communion liturgy and when asked you will take the wafer as the Body of Christ. Then the juice as the Blood of Christ.]*

#### A Sending Forth Song: (#214 Hymnal)

*Just As I Am*

#### Benediction:

God, may we remember that all of life is held together with nails, piercing the flesh of Jesus Christ; And may we remember that the power of sin and death are forever ended, hung upon a cross and crucified; May we remember the bread of life broken for us, and Christ's blood poured out for us. May we remember and give thanks; as we take up our cross and follow him, believing that in Christ all things work together for the good. Go in peace, to love and serve our Lord.

#### Postlude:

*Blow Ye the Trumpet, Blow*

**Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 ESV**

*Blow a trumpet in Zion;  
    sound an alarm on my holy mountain!  
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,  
    for the day of the Lord is coming; it is near,  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
    a day of clouds and thick darkness!  
Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains  
    a great and powerful people;  
their like has never been before,  
    nor will be again after them  
through the years of all generations.*

*“Yet even now,” declares the Lord,  
    “return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
    and rend your hearts and not your garments.”  
Return to the Lord your God,  
    for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;  
    and he relents over disaster.  
Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
    and leave a blessing behind him,  
a grain offering and a drink offering  
    for the Lord your God?  
Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
    consecrate a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
    gather the people.  
Consecrate the congregation;  
    assemble the elders;  
gather the children,  
    even nursing infants.  
Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
    and the bride her chamber.  
Between the vestibule and the altar  
    let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep  
and say, “Spare your people, O Lord,  
    and make not your heritage a reproach,  
a byword among the nations.  
Why should they say among the peoples,  
    ‘Where is their God?’”*