



Greeting:

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: **God's mercy endures forever.**

Ash Wednesday Prayer:

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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: *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*

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Invocation

Old Testament Scripture Lesson: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

New Testament Gospel Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Hymn: *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

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New Testament Gospel Lesson: St. Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Affirmation of Faith: *Apostles' Creed*

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Gloria Patri: *Glory Be to the Father*

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Invitation:

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, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel (bow) before our Creator and Redeemer.

Thanksgiving Over the Ashes:

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 that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Imposition of Ashes

Confession and Pardon:

O merciful Father, in compassion for your sinful children you sent your Son Jesus Christ to be the Savior of the world.

Grant us grace to feel and to lament our share of the evil that made it necessary for him to suffer and to die for our salvation.

Help us by self-denial, prayer, and meditation to prepare our hearts for deeper penitence and a better life.

And give us a true longing to be free from sin, through the deliverance won by Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

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Benediction



February 22, 2023

7:00 PM

Faith United Methodist Church

4000 Spring Park Road

Jacksonville, FL 32207