

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Scripture Reading Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

Call to Worship

Leader: Friends and neighbors, in the middle of our busy week, we pause to observe Ash Wednesday together as a faith community.

ALL: **We come to remember that God made us from fragile, blessed dust and breathes through us the breath of life and love.**

Leader: From dust we are created in God's image and to God's good dust we shall return.

ALL: **With dust and oil we claim the mark of God's beloved creature.**

Leader: Today we begin our 40-day Lenten journey to discover who we are created to be as God's beloved.

ALL: **In daily practices of prayer and service we will embark upon this Lenten journey.**

Leader: We follow Jesus, God's Beloved Child, bone of our bone and Flesh of our flesh. In whom we see God's image most clearly.

ALL: **So come let us pray for strength and imagination to follow Jesus wherever he will lead us this Lent.**

Opening Hymn 'You are my Hiding Place' *Ch# 554*

Opening Prayer *Pastor Rich*

Scripture Reading Psalm 51: 1-17

Hymn 'Change My Heart, O God' *Cp #86*

Time of Quiet Contemplation *A time for preparation, confession, repentance, and our mortality.*

Litany of Confession

Leader: Dust we are, O God, and to dust we shall return.

All: Have mercy on us.

Leader: We have not loved you with our whole heart, soul, and mind.

All: We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Leader: We have turned away from those in need.

All: And squandered our inheritance with self-indulgence.

Leader: Have mercy on us.

All: Have mercy on us, O loving and gracious God.

Leader: Forgive us all our sins and weaknesses, our anger and hate.

All: We confess our prejudice and intolerance, our greed and envy.

Leader: We have sinned against heaven and before you;

All: And we are no longer worthy to be called your children.

Leader: But you are gracious and merciful.

All: Like a loving mother and father, welcome us back into your arms, that we may know your forgiveness and acceptance.

Words of Assurance

Hymn 'Open Our Eyes, Lord' *Cp #44*

Gospel Lesson Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

Evening Message *Pastor Rich*

Communion

Imposition of Ashes

Closing Hymn 'Take My Life' *Cp #114*

Blessing

As a sign of reconciliation and God's overflowing love, Let us offer each other a sign of God's peace.

Leader: *The peace of Christ be with you.*

ALL: and also with you.

Benediction *Pastor Rich*

Ash Wednesday

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

Joel 2:13

“Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy” that’s the prayer that keeps emerging from the depth of our being and breaking through the walls of our cynicism. Yes, we are sinners, hopeless sinners; everything is lost and nothing is left of our hopes and dreams. Still, there is a voice: “My grace is enough for you!” and we cry again for the healing of our cynical hearts and dare to believe that, indeed, in the midst of our mourning, we can find a gift to be grateful for.

From: Suffering to Salvation
Henri J. M. Nouwen

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**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

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