**THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*Following the benediction, please leave the sanctuary silently*

We have a basket at the back of the sanctuary if you would like to place your offering there.

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, began to be observed in the sixth century A.D. The name originates from the custom that we observe this evening of placing ashes, long a symbol for repentance, in the shape of a cross on the forehead. Worshipers wear this mark as a symbol and a reminder of sorrow for their sins. The ashes are made from burned palm leaves used in the previous year’s celebration of Palm Sunday. Lent is traditionally a season of recalling Christ’s suffering and death for our sins, as well as a season of self-examination and repentance from sins. The way to Easter is the way of the cross. New life with Christ involves a daily surrendering of the old life. The first step of this Lenten journey invites us to acknowledge our mortality and our sinfulness by the imposition of ashes.

“Show me God, how I am fooling myself when I fail to make You the Center of my life and my prayer.”

--Henri Nouwen--

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**Save the Dates!**

Maundy Thursday Service: Thursday, April 18th @6:00pm
Easter Sunrise Service: Sunday, April 21st @7:30am
Easter Breakfast: @8:00am
Easter Service: @9:15am

*Lent Book Study is on Wednesdays beginning March 20th at 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Please see April in the office to order a book and get a packet! There are also Lenten Devotional booklets available across from the church office!**
ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP
MARCH 6TH • 6:00 P.M.

We invite you to prepare for worship in silence.

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

*HYMN  Take My Life and Let it Be  Hymn #568

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader:  The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to examine our souls,
People:  For we have not only met temptation, we have felt its grip.
Leader:  The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to mend our ways,
People:  For we have not only committed sin, we have felt its sting.
Leader:  The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to rend our hearts,
People:  For we have not only witnessed forgiveness, we have felt its power.
ALL:  O COME, LET US WORSHIP THE LORD.

*HYMN  When I Survey the Wondrous Cross  Hymn #213

*CALL TO CONFESSION
People:  We stand at the beginning of Lent, ready to renew our faith and recommit ourselves to living for Jesus Christ.
Leader:  After John’s arrest, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, saying, “The time has come at last--God’s reign has arrived.
People:  You must change your hearts and minds and believe the good news.”
Leader:  We stand at the beginning of Lent, ready to renew our faith and recommit ourselves to living for Jesus Christ.
All:  Let us begin the journey of Lent by coming before God and one another, confessing our sin.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION
All:  We confess, Lord how often we forget that we are yours. Take our lives; make us yours.
Soloist Sings:  Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
All:  We are yours, Lord, though we confess that far too often our busyness prevents us from worshipping you. Take our days; make them yours.
Soloist Sings:  Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
All:  We are yours, Lord, and we confess how often we forget to love you and to love one another. Take our hands; make them yours. Let them be filled with love, that we may serve you and serve one another.
Soloist Sings:  Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.
All:  We are yours, Lord, and we confess that our feet don’t always move with your spirit. We are slow to love justice and to walk humbly with you. Take our feet; make them yours. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Sung)
Beneath The Cross of Jesus  Hymn #216

SCRIPTURE
1 Peter 1:3-5  (pg.: 232; large print pgs.: 281-82)

*HYMN  Be Still My Soul  Hymn #530

MEDITATION
A Living Hope

*HYMN  Rock Of Ages  Hymn #227

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES
LEADER:  Dear friends in Christ, let us ask the Lord to bless these ashes which we will use as the mark of our repentance.
PEOPLE:  Lord, bless these ashes by which we show that we are dust.
LEADER:  Almighty God... the work of your salvation that we may show forth your glory in the world.
PEOPLE:  By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord, bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Those who desire may now come forward to receive the ashes.

Genesis 3:19 are repeated each time: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."