

# Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021

Contemporary On-line Worship

Prelude                      Rock of Ages                      Traditional

## Call to Worship

Pastor: For just such a time as this, we were made. In the image of God, loving, grace-giving, and wise, we are created to be the hands, hearts, and feet of divinity.

**Congregation: We gather on this Ash Wednesday, not because we must, not to puff ourselves up, but to start out on the trail leading to the resurrection.**

\*Opening Song                      Better                      Barrett

Scripture Reading                      Matthew 4:1-11

## Corporate Prayer of Confession

Pastor: Father God, your knowledge of us is perfect – the situations we face, the decisions we make, our motives, our passions, and our desires. We long to act justly, but so often sin stains our deeds, just as dust and ashes smear and discolor that which was clean.

So we pour out these ashes, watching them cover the bright clean surface beneath, and we remember the ways in which we have failed to live by your standards.

**ALL: Your plan, obscured by our selfish motives.  
Your light, smothered by things we wish to hide.  
Your love, made fruitless by our inaction.  
Your world, tainted by our sin.**

Pastor: We acknowledge and cry out in shame for our part in wider issues that affect our world. With these ashes of lament, we remember.

**ALL: The world's poor, kept poor by our wasteful lifestyles.  
Creation's beauty is marred by our selfish carelessness.  
The innocent caught in the middle of unjust conflicts.**

Pastor: In all these things, our personal, national and global failings, we call out to you, to act, to renew, to forgive, to restore the brightness of

your love and the radiance of your glory. We receive your forgiveness that pours from the cross. We receive your empowering to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with you.

**ALL: AMEN.**

\*Gospel Reading                      John 1:1-13

Message                      **Journey to the Cross**                      Pastor Vern

Silent Prayer (On Eagle's Wings recorded by the Joyful Sound Ringers)  
Words of Assurance

Pastor: When you were dead in your sins and in your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup> having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. Col.2:13-14

Let us pray - O God, our Deliverer, you led your people of old through the wilderness and brought them to the Promised Land. Guide now the people of your church, that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; though Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen. (UMH268)

## Consecration of Ashes

**Join us at church today** – Drive up through portico and receive Ashes and Communion, if desired. All precautions will be taken to keep you safe and well.

**Times are: 9:30-11:30 am, 1:30-3:30 pm, and 4:30- 6:30 pm.**

\*Closing Song                      **Diamonds**                      H. Nelson  
(prerecorded by Hockessin's Heavenly Angel and Joyful Noise Choirs in 2018)

## Closing Prayer

Pastor . . . . . Dr. Rev. Vern Bryant  
Director of Music Ministry . . . . . Barbara Jones  
Praise Band Director . . . . . David Heinze  
Charts and Reenactment . . . . . Navy Jones  
Band. . . . . Bass - Dennis Walls , Guitar - Tom Walsh  
Videographer and drums . . . . . Carl Immediato