



**Mifflin Avenue and South Avenue United Methodist Churches**

**February 22, 2023**

**Ash Wednesday**

**7:00 pm**

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE

'O man bemoan thy grievous sin'

J.S. Bach

CENTERING WORDS

Pastor: In the midst of darkness we have come.

People: **Heal us, Lord Jesus.**

HYMN

'Jesus, We Are Here'

TFWS No. 2273

**Jesus, we are here; Jesus we are here; Jesus, we are here; we are here for you.**

Pastor: Save us from the darkness of our souls.

People: **Save us, Lord Jesus.**

HYMN

'Jesus, We Are Here'

TFWS No. 2273

**Savior, we are here; Savior we are here; Savior, we are here; we are here for you.**

Pastor: Let us follow you and obey your commands

People: **Direct and guide us, Lord Jesus.**

HYMN

'Jesus, We Are Here'

TFWS No. 2273

**Master, we are here; Master we are here; Master, we are here; we are here for you.**

Pastor: Brighten our lives and lift our spirits.

People: **Bring us to your glorious presence, Lord Jesus.**

HYMN

'Jesus, We Are Here'

TFWS No. 2273

**Spirit, we are here; Spirit we are here; Spirit, we are here; we are here for you.**

Pastor: AMEN.

People: **AMEN.**

### CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

SILENT PROCESSIONAL AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

OPENING PRAYER

**We turn to you, God of life on this first day of Lent, as we recall our own mortality. With hearts torn open by our actions we need your guidance and your healing forgiveness. Ready us to receive your mercy and grace, and cleanse us of the ash of human failing, that we may embrace the words you speak—words that lead to eternal life. Amen.**

INTROIT

'Spirit Song'

No 347

**[Verse 1]**

***Oh let the Son of God enfold you***

***With His Spirit and His love***

***Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul***

***Oh let Him have the things that hold you***

***And His Spirit like a dove***

***Will descend upon your life and make you whole***

**[Chorus]**  
**Jesus, oh Jesus**  
**Come and fill Your lambs**  
**Jesus, oh Jesus**  
**Come and fill Your lambs**

**[Verse 2]**  
**Oh come and sing this song with gladness**  
**As your hearts are filled with joy**  
**Lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name**  
**Oh give Him all your tears and sadness**  
**Give Him all your years of pain**  
**And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name**

**[Chorus]**  
**Jesus, oh Jesus**  
**Come and fill Your lambs**  
**Jesus, oh Jesus**  
**Come and fill Your lambs**

ANTHEM

'Ashes to Ashes'

Dan Schutte

## CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

### CALL TO CONFESSION

In preparation, present yourselves before God. Come in your brokenness, acknowledging where you have fallen short of God's expectations and of your own.

HYMN

'Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying'

TFWS 2193

**Lord, listen to your children praying,**  
**Lord, send your Spirit in this place;**  
**Lord, listen to your children praying,**  
**Send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

### GENERAL CONFESSION

Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

**People: The brokenness that hinders me, I lay before you.**

Pastor: We come in our pain, acknowledging our hurt and accepting how we have hurt others.

*(Time of silent reflection.)*

HYMN

'Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying'

TFWS 2193

**Lord, listen to your children praying,**  
**Lord, send your Spirit in this place;**  
**Lord, listen to your children praying,**  
**Send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

Pastor: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

**People: All the pain I have in my life—the pain I have caused and the pain I feel—I lay before you.**

Pastor: We come in our weakness, acknowledging our lack of confidence to do what is right.

*(Time of silent reflection.)*

HYMN

'Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying'

TFWS 2193

*Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

**People: The weakness that holds me captive, I lay before you.**

Pastor: We come in our fear, acknowledging our failure to seek justice.

*(Time of silent reflection.)*

HYMN

'Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying'

TFWS 2193

*Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

Pastor: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

**People: The fear that binds me, I lay before you.**

Pastor: We come in our hesitancy, acknowledging our resistance to God's call.

*(Time of silent reflection.)*

HYMN

'Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying'

TFWS 2193

*Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

**People: My hesitancy in doing your will, I lay before you.**

Pastor: We come in our failings, acknowledging what we have done and left undone.

*(Time of silent reflection.)*

HYMN

'Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying'

TFWS 2193

*Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

Pastor: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

**People: The hollowness that saps my strength and leaves me lifeless, I lay before you.**

Pastor: All that we are, all that we have done, all that we confess, we lay before you, O God.

**People: Relieve the weight of the burden I lay before you. Amen.**

*(Time of silent reflection.)*

HYMN

'Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying'

TFWS 2193

*Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor: Joel reminds us that God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. With great mercy, God relents from punishing and calls us into fullness of life. In God's grace, know that you are forgiven.

**People: In God's grace, know that you are forgiven.**

Pastor: In God's mercy, know that you are made new.

**People: In God's mercy, know that you are made new.**

Pastor: In God's love, know that you are made whole.

**People: In God's love, know that you are made whole.**

## HYMN OF ASSURANCE

'Grace Alone'

TFWS No. 2162 (Refrain only)

*Grace alone which God supplies, strength unknown he will provide.  
Christ in us our Corner stone; we will go forth in grace alone...*

## CELEBRATION THROUGH THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Pastor: O Lord, open our eyes, our ears our minds, and our hearts.

**People: that we might behold wondrous things out of your word.**

### CHORAL RESPONSE

'Thy Word'

No. 601 (Refrain only)

**"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."**

### FIRST LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:20b: 6:10

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

'Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus'

No. 349

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.*

Pastor: The Lord be with you,

**People: and also with you.**

Pastor: A reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

### \*THE GOSPEL IS READ

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

### \*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the Living Christ.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### \*GLORIA PATRI

No. 70

## CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION

### SERMON

'What Will They Say?'

Rev. Russel Shuluga

## INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

*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 bow before our Creator and Redeemer.*

### SILENT PRAYER

#### 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

(During the singing of the hymn, you are invited to come forward for the imposition of ashes)

#### HYMN

'Just as I Am, Without One Plea'

No. 357

***Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidst me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.***

***Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot,  
to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.***

***Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.***

***Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
yea, all I need in thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.***

***Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.***

***Just as I am, thy love unknown hath broken every barrier down;  
now, to be thine, yea thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.***

## CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

### \*BENEDICTION

Pastor: With the ash of repentance, we have entered Lent.

**People: With contrite hearts, we await our Lord.**

Pastor: Go forth and make preparations to receive the power of God.



### \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

'Danish Amen'  
*A-men, a-men, a – men.*

No. 898

### \*RECESSIONAL HYMN

'Sing Out! We're Made of Common Dust'  
(Sung to No. 463  
"Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak")

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

*Sing out! We're made of common dust;  
One day, to dust we shall return!  
Yet, God, you've placed your mark on us  
And so for you our spirits yearn.*

*This gift of ashes we receive  
Reminds us we belong to you.  
You call us to repent, believe,  
and seek your Way in all we do.*

*The dust and dirt of children's play,  
of youthful times, of working years  
Are part of life — and life's decay;  
We wash the dust with sorrow's tears.*

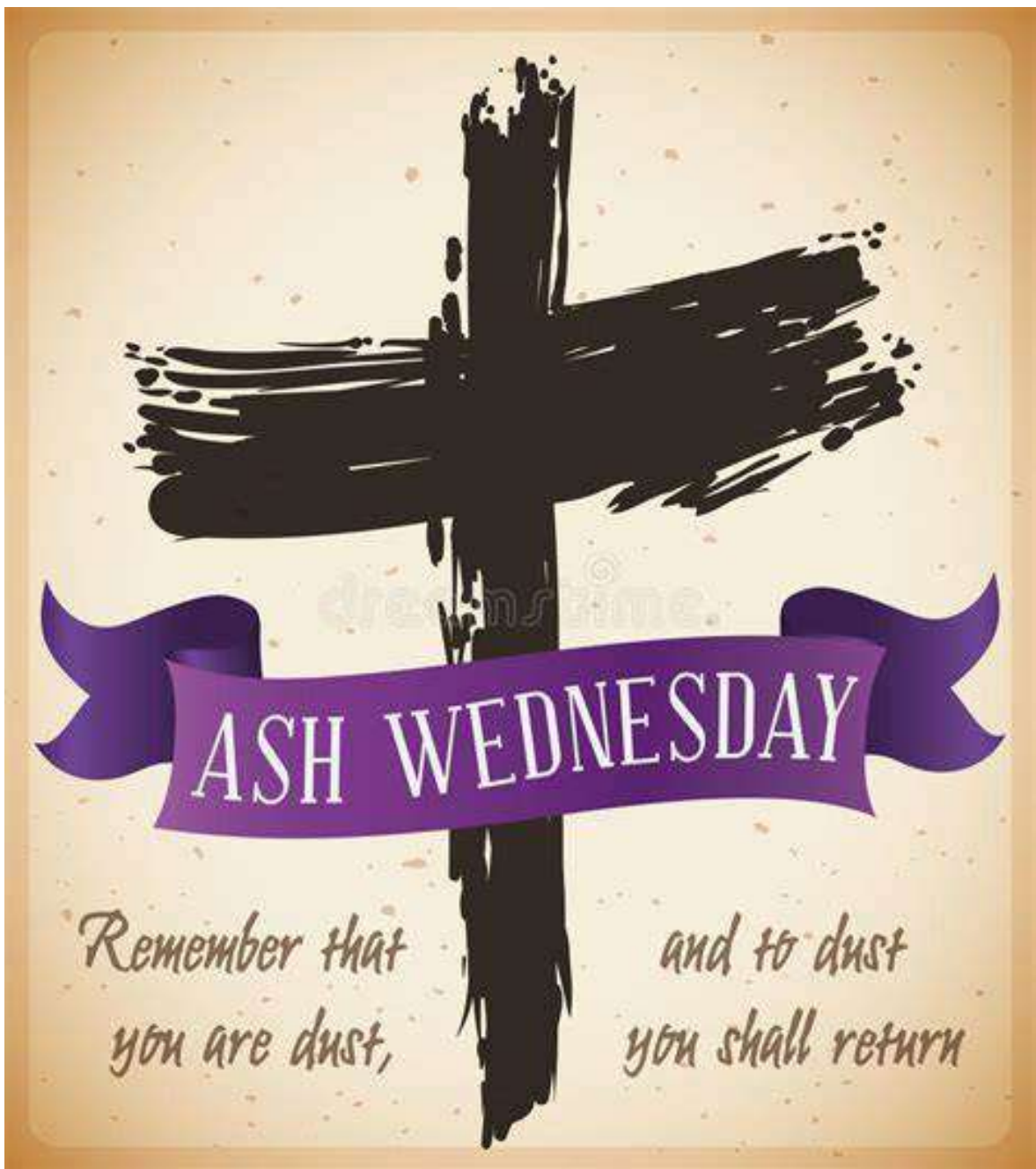
*We sing, O God, of what you give:  
This ash reminds us we are yours.  
In life we're claimed, in death we live!  
In Christ our life, your love endures.*

### \*POSTLUDE

'if thou but suffer God to guide thee'

J. S. Bach

**WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF JESUS INTO THE WORLD**



ASH WEDNESDAY

*Remember that  
you are dust,*

*and to dust  
you shall return*