



CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Calvary United Methodist Church seeks and invites all to become disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our community and our world.

February 17, 2021

Ash Wednesday

Online Worship

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Please use this time to prepare to worship

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Read responsively)

This is the season of Lent, a time when we recognize the ways we have moved away from God, a time when we look deeply into our lives and see the ways we have not lived faithfully. Lent is also a time of reorientation and renewal; a time of turning our hearts and minds back to God.

**Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love**

God is a God of abundant mercy, who seeks reconciliation with wayward Creation.

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

God is a God who constantly reaches out to us, inviting us into love, inviting us into life.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

The sacrifice which is pleasing to God is a contrite heart and a spirit of brokenness; let us turn to God humility and faith.

**God, you are merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

**Wash away our guilt, heal our brokenness,
and draw us ever closer to you.**

*HYMN

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

UMH #402

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, we like to claim that your way is mysterious and we are uncertain how to follow. We confess that we don't want to understand the fast that you choose. You call us to loose the bonds of injustice, to let prisoners free, to break every yoke, to bring the homeless into our house, to feed our neighbors and pray for our enemies. We make it sound like a difficult metaphor so we don't have to act on your word, because we don't like to be uncomfortable. Forgive our apathy, our willful ignorance, our false modesty, and our unexamined privilege. Create in us a clean heart, and lead us into a Holy Lent...and beyond, to abundant life for all your creation. In Christ's name we pray.

Amen.

THE WORD IS PROCLAIMED

A LESSON FROM THE PROPHETS Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

*GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

CONFESSION AND PARDON

(based on Ezekiel 36:26, Psalm 51:10; Joel 2:12, and Jeremiah 24:7)

“I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts.”(Ezekiel 36:26)

**A clean heart, create for me, O God,
and a steadfast spirit renew within me.**

“Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning.” (Joel 2:12)

**A clean heart, create for me, O God,
and a steadfast spirit renew within me.**

“I will give you a heart with which to understand that I am the Lord. You shall be my people and I will be your God, for you shall return to me with your whole heart.” (Jeremiah 24:7)

**A clean heart, create for me, O God,
and a steadfast spirit renew within me.**

“Oh, that today you would hear his voice: ‘Harden not your hearts.’” (Psalm 95:7-8)

**A clean heart, create for me, O God,
and a steadfast spirit renew within me.**

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

According to the Lord's abundant mercy, there is forgiveness for all who seek repentance, and grace for all who turn their hearts to the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT

“It is Well with My Soul”

UMH #377

*BENEDICTION

*VOLUNTARY

— Prayer of Confession from Penance Service Cycle B, posted on the [Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogsdenburg](http://Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogsdenburg website) website. Reposted: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/02/litany-of-confession-lent.html>