



Ash Wednesday

 **Main Street**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 17, 2021
6:00 pm

Ash Wednesday Service

6:00 pm

February 17, 2021

Call To Worship

Pastor: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: God's mercy endures forever.

Act of Praise

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Opening Prayer

O God, maker of everything and judge of all that You have made, from the dust of the earth You have formed us and from the dust of death You will raise us up. By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit, that we may repent of our sins and lead lives worthy of Your calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

When you pray do not heap up empty phrases, pray in this way:

The Lord's Prayer

No. 895

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Musical Devotion

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Lisa Smith

Message

Always Alone Rev. James McCoy-Bruce

Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

Thanksgiving over the Ashes

Imposition of Ashes

Prayer of Confession

from Psalm 51

**Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.
You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

(All offer silent prayers of confession)

Words of Absolution

Pastor: May the almighty and merciful God, who desires not the death of a sinner but that we turn from wickedness and live, accept your repentance, forgive your sins, and restore you by the Holy Spirit to newness of life.

People: Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Closing Hymn *Freely, Freely* verse 1
God forgave my sin in Jesus' name, I've been born again in Jesus' name,
And in Jesus' name I come to you, to share His love as He told me to.

He said, "Freely, freely you have received, freely, freely give.
Go in my name and because you believe, others will know that I live."

Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude

A video recording of today's service is available on our website,
www.mainstreetgreenwood.org.

Three Solae of the Reformation

By Grace alone (Sola Gratia)

Through Faith alone (Sola Fide)

According to Scripture alone (Sola Scriptura)

What is Lent and why does it last forty days?

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or volunteering and giving of themselves for others. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan. Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" celebration of Jesus' victory over sin and death.

What is the significance of ashes on Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. It is a day of penitence and remembrance of our sins of the past and our ultimate mortality. Palm branches are usually burned and the sign of the cross is placed on the forehead using the ashes. The ash cross is an outward sign of our sorrow and repentance for sins.

from: www.umc.org

Community Lenten Pilgrimage Series

Service available each week on Wednesday by 12:00 PM

At MainStreetGreenwood.org

February 24 -- Westminster Presbyterian Church

March 3 --

March 10 -- First Presbyterian Church

March 17 -- First Baptist Church

March 24 -- St. Mark UMC

March 31 -- Morris Chapel Baptist Church