

# Amity United Methodist Church ♦ University United Methodist Church

February 17, 2021 ♦ 7:00 p.m. ♦ Ash Wednesday

Service of Penance and Reconciliation

Please enter into silence in preparation for worship.

## Call to Worship

*Responsively*

Blow the trumpet in Zion. Sound the alarm on God's holy mountain! The day of the Lord draws near.  
**Let us rend our hearts, not our clothing. Let us return to the Lord, who abounds in steadfast love.**  
Leave behind the ways that lead to death, and return to God with all your heart!  
**Have mercy on us, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.**

## Opening Hymn

"Amazing Grace"

*Hymn 378*

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.  
Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.**

## Opening Prayer

*In Unison*

**O God, maker of every thing 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 would 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.**

## Responsive Psalm

Psalm 51, selected verses

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. Cleanse me from my sin. I know my transgressions.  
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.**

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

Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

**The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart,  
O God, you will not despise.**

## Anthem

"Lord, For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake"

Anonymous

## Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 58:1-12

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Invitation to Observance of Lenten Discipline

### Thanksgiving Over the Ashes

*In Unison*

God of dust and ash, you fashioned us from the dust of the earth, and to dust we shall return.  
May these ashes remind us of who and whose we are. Amen.

### Imposition of the Ashes

Ashes are a sign of mortality and repentance. During this time we invite you to reflect on both by confessing your sin and asking God for forgiveness.

*If you have an Ash Wednesday kit, at this time you may impose ashes mixed with oil on your forehead, or apply the temporary cross tattoo on your hand as a sign of your repentance and God's forgiveness.*

## Silent Prayers of Confession and Pardon

### Closing Hymn

“Sunday’s Palms Are Wednesday’s Ashes”

*The Faith We Sing 2138*

Sunday’s palms are Wednesday’s ashes as another Lent begins;  
thus we kneel before our Maker in contrition for our sins.  
We have marred baptismal pledges, in rebellion gone astray;  
now, returning, seek forgiveness; grant us pardon, God, this day!

We have failed to love our neighbors, their offences to forgive,  
have not listened to their troubles, nor have cared just how they live,  
we are jealous, proud, impatient, loving overmuch our things;  
may the yielding of our failings be our Lenten offerings.

We are hasty to judge others, blind to proof of human need;  
and our lack of understanding demonstrates our inner greed;  
we have wasted earth’s resources; want and suffering we’ve ignored;  
come and cleanse us, then restore us; make new hearts within us, Lord!

## Dismissal with Blessing

