

First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Virtual Bulletin

Ash Wednesday
February 22, 2023

Introit: "Dust and Ashes" Wren and Haas

Introduction to Lent:

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday as a day to remember our humanity and begin a period of repentance – a turning away from sin and evil – in preparation for the joy of Easter. We are joined in our humanity by Jesus who, though he was and is God, experienced the limits of human life in solidarity with us. In Lent, we recall Jesus' time in the wilderness when he was tempted to feed, save, and glorify himself. Instead, he humbled himself before God and began a ministry of feeding, healing, and saving others so that God might be glorified. We are called to recognize the ways we have been focused on ourselves, to repent, and to follow in Jesus' way of justice and compassion.

*Call to Worship:

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

People: And also with you.

Leader: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: God's mercy endures forever.

*Opening Prayer: (In Unison)

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 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.

*The Lord's Prayer: UMH #895

*Hymn: "What Wondrous Love Is This" UMH #292

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:13-21 Susan Zuckerman

Ash Wednesday Homily: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

***Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline
Thanksgiving over the Ashes
*Imposition of Ashes***

*Prayer of Confession and Pardon: (In Unison)

Maker of all, as we remember our humanity today, forgive us for forgetting the humanity of others. In our desire for help from you, we can become focused on ourselves and neglect the very things you care about. In this season of Lent, lead us in the way of repentance that is acceptable to you. May our prayers be matched by our actions, and as we receive grace, so let us give it freely. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*Moment of Silent Confession

*Words of Assurance:

Leader: We seek help from the Giver of Life, the Defeater of Death, who loves us so much that he gave his Son that we might live abundantly. We are forgiven in the name of Jesus, and for this we give you praise, O God!

All: We are forgiven in the name of Jesus, and for this we give you praise, O God!

*Hymn: "Change My Heart, O God" TFWs #2152

A Time of Offering

Offertory: "Purify My Heart" J. Nelson

*Doxology: "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"
(Sung to the tune of hymn #408) UMH #95

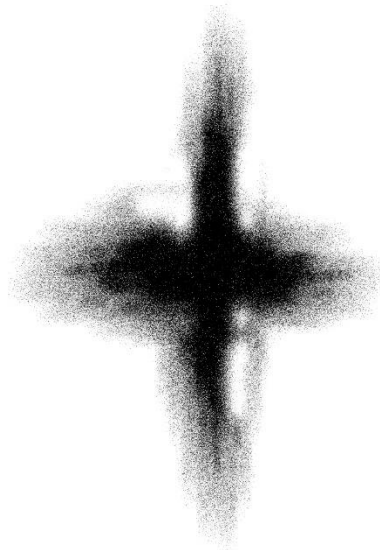
*Prayer of Thanksgiving: (In Unison)

Loving Creator, receive the gifts of our earthly resources and accept the gifts of our love. May these earthly treasures lead others to follow your path of care for all humanity. And may our heavenly treasures inspire us to be your incarnation in the world. Amen.

*Closing Hymn: "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" UMH #269

*Benediction: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

*Exhort: "Dust and Ashes" Wren and Haas



**Leading Us in Worship
Pastor, Rev. Yoseb Jeon
Music: Ken Budka and Yoonjung Park
Liturgist: Susan Zuckerman**

Today's Hymns:

What Wondrous Love Is This UMH #292

What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse
For my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
That caused the Lord of life
To lay aside his crown
For my soul, for my soul,
To lay aside his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb
I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb
Who is the Great I Am,
While millions join the theme
I will sing, I will sing;
While millions join the theme
I will sing.

(Last Verse)

And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on.

Change My Heart, O God TFWS #2152

(Chorus)
Change my heart, O God,
Make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God,
May I be like You.

(Verse)
You are the Potter,
I am the clay.
Mold me and make me,
This is what I pray.

(Repeat Chorus)

Purify My Heart J. Nelson

Purify my heart,
Touch me with Your cleansing fire.
Take me to the cross,
Your holiness is my desire.

Breathe Your life in me,
Kindle a love that flows from Your throne.
O, purify my heart,
Purify my heart.

(Repeat All)

O, purify my heart,
Purify my heart.

Doxology:

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow UMH #95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days
UMH #269

Lord, who throughout these forty days
For us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins
And close by Thee to stay.

As Thou with Satan didst contend,
And didst the victory win,
O give us strength in Thee to fight,
In Thee to conquer sin.

As Thou didst hunger bear, and thirst,
So teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and chiefly live
By Thy most holy word.

And through these days of penitence,
And through Thy passion tide,
Yea, evermore in life and death,
Jesus, with us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life
Of suffering over past,
An Easter of unending joy
We may attain at last.

Scripture Passage: Matthew 7:13-21 (NRSVUE)

Liturgist: Susan Zuckerman

The Narrow Gate

¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate, for the gate is wide and the road is easy^[a] that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

A Tree and Its Fruit

¹⁵ “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus you will know them by their fruits.

Concerning Self-Deception

²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!