



Welcome to worship! No matter where you are, where you have been, or where you are on your faith journey, our prayer is that you will find a place to belong in worship and mission with us.

February 22, 2023

Ash Wednesday

7 pm

Preparation for Worship

The invitation to renew our hearts is before us. The assurance of God's steadfast love is always with us.
—Karin Ellis

Focus Scripture

Psalm 51:1-17

Prelude

Come and Find the Quiet Center

Sanctuary Choir

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead. Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed: clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be. Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace. God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base, making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun, raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun. In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain. Let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain; There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care; in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare. Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead.

*Call to Worship

Come, young and old...

We gather to hear the word of God.

Come, and do not delay...Return to God.

We gather to be in the presence of God.

Come, cry out to God...Trust in God's mercy.

We gather to renew our spirits, as we acknowledge our failings before God.

*Hymn

Take Time to Be Holy

No. 395

Common 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 your speak--words that lead to eternal life. Amen.

Scripture

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Message

Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

*Hymn

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

No. 269

*Benediction

With the ash of repentance, we have entered Lent.

With contrite hearts, we await our Lord.

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

*Postlude

*Please stand as you are comfortable

Staff and Worship Assistants:

Pastor: Kathy Bueker Sweet

Director of Music: Kathy Brown

Director of Family Ministries: Melanie Burger

Director of Youth Ministries: Will Pontious

Organists: Gloria Cardoni & Mary Ellen Dean

Director of Bell Choir: Barb Ozier

Tech Support: Jamie Hannah

Sound Tech: Arthur Sievers

Office Manager: Carol Wintersteen



Office--217-762-2579

office@monticelloumc.com

Rev. Kathy Cell--815-370-3039

2020 East Washington, Monticello, IL

www.monticelloumc.com

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/237998406251361>

Office Hours--Monday-Thursday 9 am - 12 noon

Live Radio Broadcast 8:30 am WCZQ 105.5 FM

Worship: 8:30 am in person and Facebook Live

10:45 am in person