



ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday | February 17, 2021
First United Methodist Church · 601 North Cedar, Abilene, Kansas 67410
785-263-2623 · www.abilenefirstumc.org

Greeting and Introduction to the Service

Prelude

GREETING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Bless the Lord, who forgives all our sins.

God's mercy endures forever.

Opening Prayer

HYMN* — *Depth of Mercy*, UMH-355

1. Depth of mercy! Can there be mercy still reserved for me? Can my God his wrath forbear, me, the chief of sinners, spare?
2. I have long withstood his grace, long provoked him to his face, would not hearken to his calls, grieved him by a thousand falls.
3. I my Master have denied, I afresh have crucified, oft profaned his hallowed name, put him to an open shame.
4. There for me the Savior stands, shows his wounds and spreads his hands. God is love! I know, I feel; Jesus weeps and loves me still.
5. Now incline me to repent, let me now my sins lament, now my foul revolt deplore, weep, believe, and sin no more.

Scripture Reading — Joel 2.1-2, 12-17 (NRSV)

- ¹ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—
- ² a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains
a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
nor will be again after them in ages to come. ...
- ¹² Yet even now, says the LORD,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
- ¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the LORD, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.
- ¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the LORD, your God?
- ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
- ¹⁶ gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged;
gather the children,
even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.
- ¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.
Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'"

(A time of silent reflection.)

The Great Thanksgiving [6:00]

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP [6:00]

The body of Christ, broken for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

Prayer Following Communion [6:00]

Scripture Reading — Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21 (NRSV)

¹"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ...

¹⁶"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

(A time of silent reflection.)

Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

THANKSGIVING OVER THE DUST

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth and to dust we shall return. Grant that this dirt may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PSALM OF CONFESSION — Psalm 51.1-17 (NRSV)

¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
**according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.**

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ 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.**

- ⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- ⁶ You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
- ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
- ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
- ¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.
- ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
- ¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.
- ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- ¹⁶ For you have no delight in sacrifice;
**if I were to give a burnt offering,
you would not be pleased.**
- ¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
**a broken and contrite heart,
O God, you will not despise.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

"In returning and rest, you shall be saved," says the Lord.

In quietness and trust, we find strength.

In the midst of death, there is resurrection and new life.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven. Amen.

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, [Meaning: save us from the time of trial.]
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

HYMN* — *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*, UMH-402

1. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart; Lord I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
2. Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
3. Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
4. Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

Dismissal with Blessing and Postlude*

ABOUT THIS WORSHIP SERVICE

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us to realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Please note that **bold type** indicates congregational participation. An asterisk (*) indicates that you are invited to stand as you are able. "UMH" stands for *The United Methodist Hymnal*.

OUR MISSION AND VISION

Mission: to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Vision: a church of open hearts, open minds, and open doors.

THOSE LEADING WORSHIP

Anna Gugler and Angie Hoerner, Pianists

Clark Williamson, Song Leader

Wendy Robinson, Slides and Sound

SERMON NOTES AND DOODLES