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*Please have your UNLIT candle and a match or candle ready for later in the service.  
Place the two halves of the "broken heart" in your worship space.  
Have elements of bread and drink ready for Holy Communion.*

## PRELUDE

*Prelude for Ash Wednesday* (Jones)

Dr. Troy Winemiller

## WORDS OF WELCOME

Pastor: Welcome, friends. Today is Ash Wednesday, the first day of the season of Lent. The symbol of ashes has long been used as an expression of grief and sorrow for sin – all those things in ourselves and our society that cause hurt and sadness in our world. Sin results in separation from God, from one another, and our own best intentions. Again, sin results in separation from God, one another, and our own best intentions. Scripture reminds us too, that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is grace and eternal life. Ashes also remind us of our humanity: that we are born, we live our lives, and then, we die. Ashes also remind us that we are made of the same stuff as all the other creatures of the earth. Finally, ashes are too, a sign of new life, which emerges from the past. Ashes therefore, are a sign of forgiveness, blessing, and transformation. It is a well-known fact among gardeners that ashes have a wonderful fertilizing effect upon the ground. So, let us begin this journey we call Lent – a time when we will look deeply inside ourselves to see the ways we hurt one another and our world, by not living as God intends; a time when we commit ourselves to transformation and new beginnings.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: When I am soiled by another's pain and seek revenge,

*All: Create in me a clean heart, O Lord.*

Pastor: When I am clouded by accumulating disappointments,

*All: Create in me a patient heart, O Lord.*

Pastor: When I am fed by the work of others.

*All: Create in me an appreciative heart, O Lord.*

Pastor: When I am in pain and aware of physical limitations,

*All: Create in me a soulful heart, O Lord.*

Pastor: When I am unexpectedly smitten with wonder,

*All: Create in me a joyful heart, O Lord.*

Pastor: When I am overcome by systemic oppression,

*All: Create in me a prophet's heart, O Lord.*

Pastor: When I am grumpy about my personal relationships,

*All: Create in me a loving heart, O Lord.*

Pastor: When I am hiding in the forest of distraction,

*All: Create in me a curious heart, O Lord.*

Pastor: When I am resonance with love for dear ones,

*All: Create in me a grateful heart, O Lord.*

Pastor: When I am rigid and judgmental,

*All: Create in me an open heart, O Lord.*

Pastor: When I am carrying heavy suitcases filled with hurt,

*All: Create in me a forgiving heart, O Lord.*

Pastor: When I am enchanted with the play of colors,

*All: Create in me an artist's heart, O Lord.*

Pastor: When I am sad and swallowed by loss,

*All: Create in me an eternal heart, O Lord.*

Pastor: When I am proudly self-important,

**All:** *Create in me a humble heart, O Lord.*  
 Pastor: When I am hurt and scared, tossed by life,  
**All:** *Create in me a brave heart, O Lord.*  
 Pastor: When I am in the presence of beloved little ones,  
**All:** *Create in me a protective heart, O Lord.*  
 Pastor: When I am surgically dissecting the actions of others,  
**All:** *Create in me a merciful heart, O Lord.*  
 Pastor: When I am isolated by loneliness,  
**All:** *Create in me a befriended heart, O Lord.*  
 Pastor: When I am anxious and poking the Tempter,  
**All:** *Create in me a peaceful heart, O Lord.*  
 Pastor: When I am exhausted and really need to stop.  
**All:** *Create in me a Sabbath heart, O Lord.*  
 Pastor: When I am lost and have forgotten who I am,  
**All:** *Create in me a YOUR heart, O Lord.*

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

### HYMN

### *Give Me a Clean Heart*

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn "Give Me a Clean Heart". It consists of four staves of music in a treble clef, 6/8 time signature, and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes.

Give me a clean heart so I may serve you. Lord, fix my  
 heart so that I may be used by you. For I'm not  
 wor - thy of all these bless - ings. Give me a  
 clean heart and I'll fol-low you.

## LITANY OF CONFESSION and KYRIE

Pastor: In your Lenten worship bags, you should have received a heart. It is, however, *incomplete*, broken, and black in color. It represents us and the world in a state of sin. Relationships are broken, God's children are no longer whole, and the world is in desperate need of God's healing. On the Wednesday evenings in Lent, we will meet biblical characters who too were broken, but found healing in Christ. Like them, let us bow before God in repentance and prayer and come into God's healing love. Almighty and Abundantly Merciful God, in a thousand different ways, our lives demonstrate how we have been lulled away from you and one another by the way of sin and death. We refuse to offer others forgiveness and decline to seek forgiveness from those whom we have wronged. We confess the delight we find in the false sense of power that comes from clinging to resentment, fear, and anger.

**All:** *(Moment of Silence for Personal Confession)*

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**All sing:** *Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Pastor: God of Grace, we misuse and abuse one another and your creation. We possess self-indulgent appetites and exploit others. We envy those more fortunate than ourselves. We love worldly goods and comforts. We are dishonest in our daily life and work, negligent in prayer and worship, and fail to draw on the gift of faith you have given us.

*All: (Moment of Silence for Personal Confession)*

Pastor: Christ, have mercy upon us.  
*All sing: Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Pastor: Holy God, we confess all our past unfaithfulness. Forgive our neglect of human need and suffering our indifference to injustice and cruelty, all false judgments and uncharitable thoughts toward neighbors, prejudice, and contempt toward those who differ from us, and our lack of concern for those who will come after us.

*All: God of Life, do not let me waste the life you have given me. Forgive my sin and open me to the way of your salvation and life eternal.*

*(Moment of Silence for Personal Confession)*

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.  
*All sing: Lord, have mercy upon us.*

#### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Based on John 3:16-17 and Romans 6:23)

Pastor: Hear the Good News! God loved the world so much, that God sent his only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

*All: God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might have salvation through Him. The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

#### HYMN OF PRAISE

#### *Lift High the Cross*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim

till all the world adore his sacred name.

*Fine*

# IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Pastor: The ashes we use this night are a sign of repentance – of our sorrow and grief concerning our sin. They have been prepared in the traditional manner. Palm crosses that were used in the Palm Sunday processional last year were sprinkled with salt, and burned, and the ashes collected, and made ready for tonight’s service. Each of you received a small container of ashes in your Lenten worship bag. The DRY ashes are a reminder of how the triumph of Holy Week quickly turned to sorrow. To prepare the ashes for use on this holy night – we sprinkled them with OIL– a symbol of anointing and healing in scripture. Let us pause for a moment to consider the meaning behind our dust and ashes, which are about to touch our face.

## HYMN

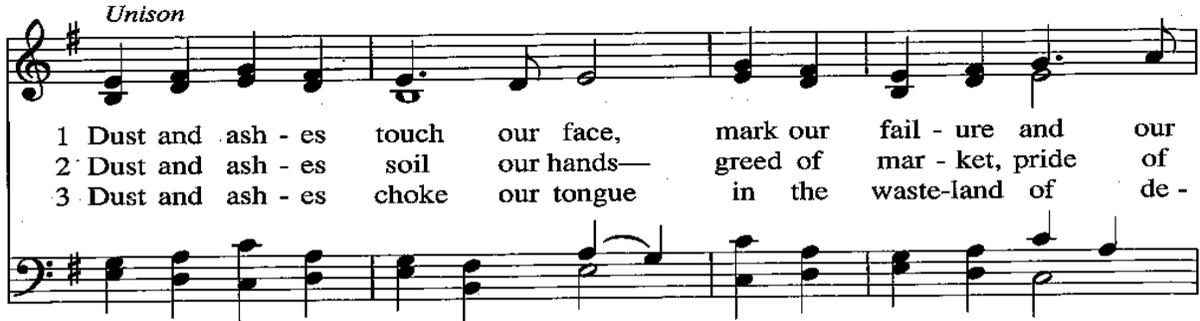
### *Dust and Ashes Touch Our Face*

Bulletin, Page

Gen. 3:17–19; Ps. 51:1–12

Brian Wren, 1989

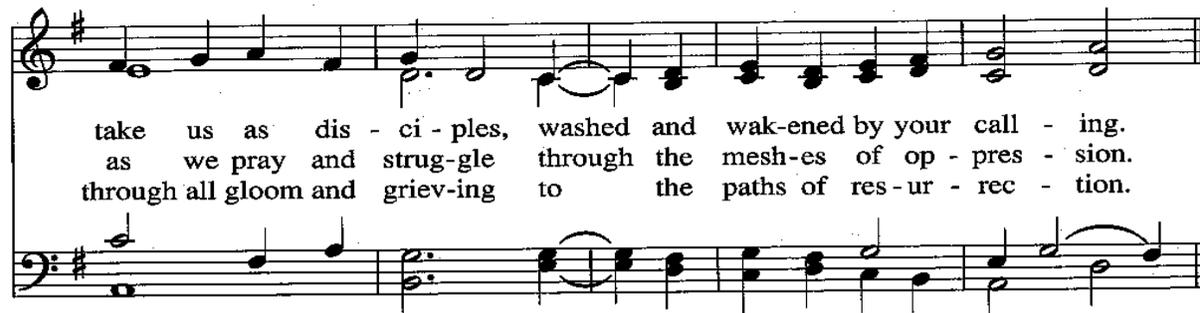
*Unison*



1 Dust and ash - es touch our face, mark our fail - ure and our  
2 Dust and ash - es soil our hands— greed of mar - ket, pride of  
3 Dust and ash - es choke our tongue in the waste-land of de -



fall - ing. Ho-ly Spir-it, come, walk with us to - mor-row,  
na - tion. Ho-ly Spir-it, come, walk with us to - mor-row  
pres - sion. Ho-ly Spir-it, come, walk with us to - mor-row



take us as dis - ci - ples, washed and wak-ened by your call - ing.  
as we pray and strug-ple through the mesh-es of op - pres - sion.  
through all gloom and griev-ing to the paths of res - ur - rec - tion.

*Refrain*



Take us by the hand and lead us, lead us through the des - ert sands,

Pastor: To show both, our repentance and our commitment to new life, we are now invited to receive the symbol of ashes. This symbol will be in the shape of a cross, and you can place it on your forehead or on your hand. If you are worshipping with others this evening, mark one another with the ashes and oil. Remember, that the ashes, a symbol of how sorry we are for our sin, have been mixed with oil, a symbol of God's healing and abundant grace. Therefore, after marking yourself or being marked by another, pause to offer a prayer of thanksgiving for God's mercy and grace. When you are finished praying, please pick up the matching half to the "broken heart" you received in your Lenten worship bag – notice that it is white. Put the two together and in doing so, may you remember God's grace and forgiveness, which restores relationship, makes you whole, and cleanses you from all unrighteousness.

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Who Am I?*

**Dr. Troy Winemiller**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**Joel 2:1-2, 12-17**

<sup>1</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming. It is close at hand-<sup>2</sup>a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness. Like dawn spreading across the mountains a large and mighty army comes, such as never was in ancient times nor ever will be in ages to come.

<sup>12</sup>"Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." <sup>13</sup>Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. <sup>14</sup>Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing- grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your God. <sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly. <sup>16</sup>Gather the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together the elders, gather the children, those nursing at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her chamber. <sup>17</sup>Let the priests, who minister before the LORD, weep between the portico and the altar. Let them say, "Spare your people, LORD. Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

## **GOSPEL READING**

**Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

<sup>16</sup>"When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. <sup>19</sup>"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup>But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>1</sup>"Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup>"So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. <sup>5</sup>"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>6</sup>But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*If you have not prepared your elements of bread and drink for Communion, it is okay.*

*Know that desiring to commune with God in your heart is enough.*

Pastor: We have confessed before God and each other that we are a needy people. We have confessed that we have failed and forgotten God. Yet, we have heard that God has remembered us! Christ our Lord has invited to His table all who have confessed their sins, and who desire to have Christ formed in them. Let us give thanks together that God has remembered us and forgiven our sins!

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is indeed right and good to give you, O God, thanks and praise. For in these forty days you lead us into a desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people again. Through fasting, prayer, and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your Holy Word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendor of your inclusive love. As we prepare to celebrate Easter with joyful hearts and minds, we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angel forever saying:

*All say: Holy, Holy, Holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Praise be to God.*

Pastor: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples saying:

**People: "This is my body, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."**

Pastor: In the same way, after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave you thanks, and gave it to his friends, saying:

**People: "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."**

People: Calling to mind, Jesus' death on the cross and his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world, and rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

**People: As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.**

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION and PARTAKING OF ELEMENTS

Pastor: Bless therefore, by your Holy Spirit all of the gifts, gathered across the miles. Bless us that as we receive them, we may be united with Christ and with one another, and we may continue faithful in all things. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and blessed are those who are called to share in his supper. These are holy things for holy people. All things are now ready. Draw near with faith. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on his love in your hearts with thanksgiving.

Pastor: The Bread of Heaven broken for you. Take and eat.

Pastor: The Cup of Blessing shed for you. Take and drink.

## PRAYER OF PRAISE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Pastor:** Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be both a sacrifice of sin and also an example of godly life: give us grace to thankfully follow in the blessed steps of his most holy life.

**People:** **God of our pilgrimage, you have fed us with the bread of heaven and refreshed us with the cup of blessing. Sustain us as we go forward on our journey in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ who taught us to pray, saying:**

**All:** *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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

## BENEDICTION

**Pastor:** Beloved, almighty God does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from evil and live. Therefore, we implore God to grant us true repentance and of the Holy Spirit that those things which we do this day may be pleasing to God, that the rest of our days may be lived faithfully, and that at the last we may come into God's eternal joy; through Jesus the Christ.

**All:** *Amen.*

## POSTLUDE

*And Now it Begins* (Smith)