

Lenten Schedule

Ash Wednesday – Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion	Wednesday, Feb. 14 @ 7 PM
First Sunday in Lent with Holy Communion: Persistent Joy	Sunday, Feb 18 @9:45 AM
Second Sunday in Lent: Expectant Joy	Sunday, Feb 25 @9:45 AM
Third Sunday in Lent: Liberating Joy	Sunday, March 3 @9:45 AM
Fourth Sunday in Lent: Transformative Joy	Sunday, March 10 @9:45 AM
Fifth Sunday in Lent: Vocational Joy	Sunday, March 17 @9:45 AM
Palm/Passion Sunday: March 24: Joy Everywhere & Nowhere	Sunday, March 24 @9:45 AM
Maundy Thursday Tenebrae: Imperfect, Incomplete, Enough	Thursday, March 28 @ 6:30 PM
Good Friday (Community Ecumenical Service)	TBD
Easter with Holy Communion: Glorious Joy	Sunday, March 31 @9:45 AM

Starview UCC – mid week devotions

**Pastor Laura will offer a 9 AM Wednesday morning virtual (Facebook live) devotion time AND an in-person time of devotional scripture study at 1:30 PM. This will be the same material, which will focus on the focus scripture of the week alongside the Lenten spiritual practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.*

February 14, 2024
A Traditional Ash Wednesday Service
Imposition of Ashes & Sacrament of Holy Communion

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

SILENCE IS OBSERVED

INTRODUCTION

Rev. Laura Baker

PRELUDE & CANDLELIGHTING

Mr. Kevin Crone & Acolyte

Silence during the Prelude Is Observed For Prayer And Reflection

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Congregation: **And, also with you.**

Pastor: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

Congregation: **God’s mercy endures forever.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All people: Lord, help us to know your powerful presence this night. We have come to this time and place shrouded in darkness of both night and of spirit. Bring to us your healing light. Lift our souls and spirits to receive your direction. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* **Blue Hymnal, #180**

(The congregation may be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING **Joel 2:1-2, 12-17**

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

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

HYMN *Softly and Tenderly* **Blue Hymnal, #340**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION **Psalms 51:1-17**

Pastor: Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy,
blot out our transgressions.

*All people: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions,
and 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.*

Moment of silent confession and reflection

All people:

*Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.*

Moment of silent confession and reflection

All people:

*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.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from 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.*

Moment of silent confession and reflection

All people:

*Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
The sacrifice acceptable to God is a humble spirit.
A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor:

Beloved people of God may the almighty and merciful God, who does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, accept your repentance, forgive your sins, and restore you by the Holy Spirit to newness of life.

Musical score for the phrase "fire of your love." It features a treble and bass clef with lyrics: "fire of your love. love." The score includes dynamic markings of *mp* and *rit.*, and is divided into sections labeled "To Verses" and "Final" with a "Fine" ending.

Verses (Ash Wednesday): Slower, with rubato (♩ = ca. 88)

Musical score for five verses, starting with a *mf* dynamic. The lyrics are:

1. Sound the trum - pet in Zi - on, an - nounce from the
2. Rend your hearts, not your gar - ments; re - turn to the
3. We have seen in the heav - ens and held in our
4. Let us fast from un - kind - ness and turn from our
5. Though this life that we trea - sure must fade like the

 The score includes a bass clef and a *mf* dynamic marking.

Musical score for five verses. The lyrics are:

1. Lord that the day of God's fa - vor is
2. Lord, who de - lights when we of - fer a
3. arms what the hand of our Mak - er can
4. greed, giv - ing bread to the hun - gry and
5. grass, heav - en's glo - ry a - waits those who

 The score includes a treble and bass clef.

Musical score for five verses, ending with a *D.C.* marking. The lyrics are:

1. ev - er close at hand. (Joel 2:1)
2. tru - ly hum - ble heart. (Joel 2:13)
3. fash - ion out of dust.
4. lift - ing up the poor. (Isaiah 58:6-7)
5. put their trust in God. (Psalm 37:2-3)

 The score includes a treble and bass clef.

ASHES TO ASHES

Refrain: Moderato (♩ = ca. 92)

Soprano *mp*

Alto
Ash - es to ash - es, from dust un - to

Baritone *mp*

dust. The cross on our fore - head, your prom - ise, O

mf

God. — Read - y us to fol - low the way of your

mf

f

Son, — to rise from these ash - es, re - deemed in the

f *mf*

All

people:

May we live the rest of our lives faithfully, that at last we may come to God's eternal joy, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

ANTHEM

Give Us a Clean Heart

Chancel Choir

PRAYER OVER THE ASHES

Pastor: Friends in Christ, I invite you to receive the ashes as a sign of a spirit of penitence with which we will keep this season of Lent. Let us pray.

All people: *Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes 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.*

Worshippers may come forward to receive the imposition of ashes.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Pastor: For those worshipping virtually, please mark one another with the sign of the cross using the following words:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.
Turn away from your sin and believe the gospel.

HYMN

Ashes to Ashes

Bulletin, Pages 6 & 7

HOMILY & PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Laura Baker

HYMN

Just As I Am

Blue Hymnal, #339

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: **And also, with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

Congregation: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, Creator and ruler of the universe. You are our God, and we are the creatures of your hand. You made us from the dust of the earth, breathed into us the breath of life, and set us in your world to love and serve you. Even when we turned away, you continued to love us, calling us through prophets to return to you in obedient love.

You sent Jesus to free us from the tyranny of sin. Jesus lived as one of us. He was fully human and full of your Spirit. He taught us your ways. Baptized as one of your own, not even death by torture could reduce him

to nothing and extinguish his light. By his resurrection, Christ released us from bondage to sin, freeing us to live as new people, citizens of the Kingdom of God. Remembering all that Jesus taught us, we come to this table to serve one another in thanksgiving for all you've done for us, offering ourselves as a living sacrifice devoted to following in your way.

PRAYER

Pastor: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and juice that we may be united in true communion with you, one another, and all the saints of all times and places who forever sing your praise. Keep us one in Christ as we pray for the world, as he taught us to pray, saying . . .

All people: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Through the broken bread – we participate in the body of Christ.
Through the cup of blessing – we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God! All things are now ready.

Communion will be served in the pews.

Take bread and HOLD it. All will commune together.

Pastor: Eat this, for it is the body of Christ, broken for you.

Wine is RED. Grape juice is CLEAR.

Please receive as you feel called and HOLD the cup. All will commune together.

Pastor: Drink this, for it is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All people: We thank you, God, for inviting us to this feast of sacrificial love where we have known the presence of Christ and have received Christ's gift of grace and mercy. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

HYMN

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Blue Hymnal, #622

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

Pastor: Christ is the Light of the World and in his name,
you have received the mark of discipleship.
Go into the world to serve God with gladness.
Be of good courage.
Hold fast to that which is good.
Render to no one evil for evil.
Strengthen the fainthearted.
Support the weak.
Help the afflicted.
Honor all people.
Love and serve God,
Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
All people: Amen.

ON THIS SOLEMN NIGHT - SILENCE IS OBSERVED UPON EXITING WORSHIP