

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, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory
forever. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

God is grace and mercy, forgiveness and love. God's anger is slow, but God's love is swifter than arrows and deeper than the sea. Because of His unfathomable mercy; Love and forgiveness are ours this day.

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Pg. 940

Matthew 6:1-6:16-21

Pg. 787

Message: by Pastor Allen

Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline:

Thanksgiving Over the Ashes:

Imposition of Ashes:

Closing Hymn:

"I Surrender All"

Pg.354

Benediction:

Reminder: Lenten Bible study to begin next Wednesday February 24, 6:30 to 7:30 with a short worship service to follow at the church. Online with Zoom will be available for anyone who wants to participate at home. There will be help available to connect to Zoom.

St. Paul
United Methodist Church
February 17, 2021



Sunday, February 17, 2021

Ash Wednesday

Prelude – Bringing the Light of Christ

Welcome to Worship

Psalm 51:1-17

Pg. 452

Call To Worship

Gather the people, young ones and old,
for all are welcome here.

Blow the trumpet, sound the alarm,
for God is present now!

Bless this worship and the holy season before us,
for God calls us to this time and place.

Return, refocus, remember, renew,
for God invites us to join hearts and lives. Amen.

Opening Prayer: (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 would raise us up. Holy God, bring your heart of love into our time of worship. Speak to our hearts, that we may join with your love. Renew your Spirit within us, that our spirits may be wholly yours. Focus our lives, that we may again know the joy of living in your grace and abiding in your merciful love. 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.

Opening Hymn:

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” Pg.269

Scripture Reading:

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Pg. 740

Prayer of Confession:

Have mercy on us, O God.

Grant us your love and grace.

You know the storms of our lives, the clouds of our sin, the gloom of our sorrow.

Grant us your love and grace.

Return to us now. Gather us in.

Grant us your love and grace.

Time of Reflection

The trumpet sounds, not for glory or notice, but to call us to God’s love and grace. We are gathered in worship, not for publicity or praise, but to remember our need for grace. We are called to pray, not for appearance or show,

but for a renewed spirit and a heart of love. Let us pray silently: for grace where we are in need of love,

(Silence)

for forgiveness where we have sinned,

(Silence)

for renewal where our spirits are dying,

(Silence)

for restoration where we are disconnected from the vine of life.

(Silence)

Stir our hearts to return to you, through the wondrous gift of Christ born in us anew each day. Amen.

(take time for personal prayer)

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words that Christ himself has taught us: