

Ash Wednesday
February 25, 2009 7:00 p.m.

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Lighting of the Altar Candles

All are invited into a deeper commitment to Christ through this Lenten season. I invite you to consider how you might mark this time with intentional discipleship. You might want to participate in a fast from particular luxuries, material consumerism or various forms of entertainment, and take each opportunity to refrain as a reminder of Christ's sacrifice and a call to prayer. You might want to add a spiritual discipline such as morning or evening Bible reading, daily prayer for church/community/world, or actions of service and compassion. Please prayerfully consider your call for this season and write your intention and commitment on the slip of paper handed to you as you entered.

Call To Worship

- L:** Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters.
P: **We come to drink deeply of the living waters offered by Jesus.**
L: Come, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens.
P: **We come to rest in Christ.**
L: Come from all directions, from all walks of life. Come, young called and loved by God.
P: **We come to worship God, to journey with Jesus, to walk in the way of Christ.**

Opening Song *"A New Heart I'll Give To You"* **Insert**

A Call to Holy Lent *Rev. Michele Ewers*

Moment of Silence

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

Moment of Silence

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

Moment of Silence

***Hymn** *"Of My Hands"* **Insert**

Blessing of the Ashes

Holy God, bless these ashes, a symbol of our shared commitment to walking in your ways. We offer to you our hopes, our habits, our time. We offer to you our very lives. Enter into each person as a church we seek to live our commitments to you within this community of faith. Amen.

Anointing with Ashes

Prayer

You have created a clean heart in us, O God, and washed us thoroughly. You have put a new and right spirit in us. As we make our Lenten journey, sustain this willing spirit within us. As we journey from the ashes of repentance to the wonder of resurrection, restore to us the joy of your salvation. Amen.

Anthem *"Lay Your Burden Down"*

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Celebration of the Sacrament

Prayer of Confession *Psalm 51: 1-17* **#785**

Assurance of Pardon

Jesus said, Come to me all of you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Friends, you may lay your burdens down here; we offer to you in their place the grace of Christ Jesus.

The Great Thanksgiving **Pg. 13**

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Hymn

“Open Our Eyes, Lord”

#2086

Benediction

L: God has chosen you and called you to full and abundant life. You are marked with your own commitment and those of our beloved community. It is written on your head; it is written on your heart. Go in peace, walking in the light and love of our Lord Jesus.

All: **Amen.**

***Closing Song**

“Change My Heart O God”

#2152

Ash Wednesday Prayer

O God,

Maker of everything and judge of all you have made,

from the dust of the earth you have formed us

And from the dust of death you would raise us up.

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.