

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastor: Go forth into the world in the strength of God's mercy to live and serve in newness of life. May Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven, bless and keep you.

PEOPLE: Amen

Pastor: May the Lamb of God who laid down his life for all, graciously smile upon you.

PEOPLE: Amen

(Depart in silent reflection)

* * * * *

Lenten & Easter Worship and Event Schedule

- 1st Sun. in Lent - Feb. 18, Worship @ 8:50AM & 10:55AM; SS @ 10AM
- 2nd Sun. in Lent - Feb. 25, Worship @ 8:50AM & 10:55AM; SS @ 10AM
(Youth - Soup, Salad, Potato Bar 11-1:30PM)
- 3rd Sun. in Lent - Sun. March 4, Worship @ 8:50AM & 10:55AM (Holy Communion);
SS @ 10AM
- 4th Sun. in Lent - March 11, Worship @ 8:50AM & 10:55AM; SS @ 10AM
- 5th Sun. in Lent - March 18, Worship @ 8:50AM & 10:55AM; SS @ 10AM
- Palm/Passion Sun. - March 25, Worship @ 8:50AM & 10:55AM (Hand Bell Choir
performs); SS @ 10AM
- Maundy Thurs. - March 29 @ 7PM Worship/Tenebrae Service (Holy Communion)
- Egg Hunt - Sat., March 31 from 2 - 4PM
- Easter Sunrise Service - Sun., April 1 @ 6:45AM (Breakfast follows in FH); SS @ 10AM
- Easter Cantata - Sun., April 1, Combined 10:55AM Worship (NO COMMUNION)

Bethlehem United Methodist Church

6103 Appomattox Rd

Climax, NC 27233



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14, 2018

In medieval times, it is recorded that a popular sign in public places read, "Remember you are dying." It was a reminder of the reality of death, but more than that a reminder to live fully that day. So, too, is Ash Wednesday a reminder that from ashes we have come and to ashes we return. It is also an opportunity to examine the kind of life that we are leading ... what is the quality of our lives, what is the quality of our actions, our thoughts, our relationships?

SILENT PROCESSION

OPENING SENTENCES:

We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For your sake God made to be sin the one who knew no sin, so that in this very one we might become the righteousness of God. For God says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you and helped you on the day of salvation." Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation.

*HYMN: *"Have Thine Own Way, Lord"* No. 382

*PSALM OF CONFESSION: Psalm 51

Reader 1: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; you who have great mercy, forgive what I have done.

Reader 2: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

Reader 1: For I know what I have done wrong; my sins are ever before me and heavy on my heart.

Reader 2: Against you, God, you only, have I sinned; you who know all things know what I have done. You have every right to judge me for my actions and every right to punish me for them.

People: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Reader 1: In the time since I was born, I have committed many sins, and done many things which I wish I had not done.

Reader 2: God, you want me to be truthful to my very core; therefore, teach me wisdom in the depths of my heart.

Reader 1: If you will do it, O God, I shall be clean, wash me, and I shall be pure.

Reader 2: Fill me with joy and gladness!

People: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Reader 1: Then I will lead others to return to you, O God, and learn your ways.

Reader 2: Deliver me from my guilt, O God of my salvation, and I will sing aloud of your deliverance. I will sing your praises.

Reader 1: You take no delight in sacrifices; you would not be pleased if I were to offer one to you.

Reader 2: The sacrifice acceptable to you is a broken spirit; a contrite heart, O God, you will not reject.

People: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.

SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: Hear the Good News: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

SCRIPTURE READING:

Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

MESSAGE

GUILTY AS CHARGED

Rev. Swofford

HYMN: *"Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"* No. 358

SILENT PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

BLESSING OF THE ASHES

May these ashes be to us, O God, an acknowledgment of our wrong doing and our acceptance of your forgiveness. In these ashes are our prejudices, our impatience, the times we have turned our backs on the suffering of others, our neglect of the environment, our indifference, our materialism, our greed, our hypocrisy, our envy, all of our sins. In these ashes of repentance are the seeds of our forgiveness and our transformation. For God always accepts us and forgives us. Through our repentance and forgiveness comes transformation. May God create within each of us a clean heart and a new and right spirit.

*IMPOSITION OF ASHES

"Create in [name] a clean heart and put a new and right spirit within her/him."

SILENT MEDITATION