

Bethlehem United Methodist Church

6103 Appomattox Rd.

Climax, NC 27233

So my children if the things that this world gives you
Leave hungers that won't pass away,
My blessed Lord will come and save you
If you kneel to Him and humbly pray—

Chorus

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

BLESSING OF THE ASHES

Leader: May these ashes be to us, O God, an acknowledgment of our wrongdoing and our acceptance of your forgiveness.

PEOPLE: 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.

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

IMPOSITION OF ASHES (proceed to presentation of ashes on forehead or hand)

SILENT MEDITATION (return to seat)

Prayer of Forgiveness: May Almighty God, who of great mercy has promised to forgive all who truly repent in true faith turn unto the Lord, strengthen you in all goodness and bring you at last into the fullness of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (at this time you may use the wipe provided and wipe off the ashes as a sign of the cleansing power of Christ to forgive our sins.)

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)



ASH WEDNESDAY

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ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR LENT AND EASTER

April 13	Children's Easter Festival and Egg Hunt 10-11:30am
April 18	Maundy Thursday Service @ 7:00pm
April 14	Palm Sunday – Handbell Choir performs (both worships)
April 21	Easter Sunrise Service @ 6:45am
	Fellowship Breakfast to follow the Sunrise Service
	Sunday School @ 9:30 am
	Easter Worship Service & Cantata @ 10:30 am

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 6, 2019

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. It is a somber day of reflection on what we need to change in our lives if we are to be fully Christian. Ashes are the signs that we are all in this sin business together, and that the difference between the good in us and the bad in us is sometimes frightfully thin. We often fall short of the Faith we claim. We have treated people as things and we have treated things as if they were valuable people. And so we look into our hearts and make the ancient prayer of one notorious sinner our own: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." (Psalm 51:10)

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: Julia Willis—Reader 1; Robin Bunton—Reader 2
Psalm 51: 1-17

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

Reader 1: In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven

People: In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven

All: Glory to God, Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Matt. 23:25-26

MESSAGE: "Out of the Ashes" Rev. Melissa Swofford

HYMN: "Fill My Cup Lord" No. 641

Like the woman at the well, I was seeking

For things that could not satisfy.

And then I heard my Savior speaking—

"Draw from My well that never shall run dry."

Chorus Fill my cup, Lord;
I lift it up Lord;
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul.
Bread of Heaven, feed me till I want no more.
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.

There are millions in this world who are seeking

For pleasures earthly goods afford.

But none can match the wondrous treasure

That I find in Jesus Christ my Lord

Chorus