LENT & ASH WEDNESDAY

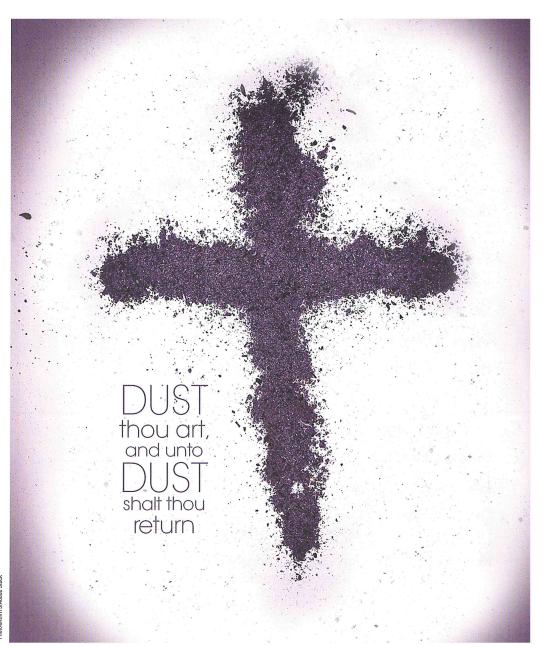
Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with the sunrise of Easter morning. Ash Wednesday is a day where we focus on the themes of sin and death in the light of God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ. This is a time for us to pray together for guidance and strength to change one or several things in your life in order to have a stronger walk with God. The Ashes are placed on one's forehead as a sign of remorse, repentance and mourning as we acknowledge our mortality as sinful people.

In our busy, secular world, we all need time for reflection and renewal. Lent is such a time. It is a time to remember Jesus, who he was and is, and what he sacrificed for us. It is a time of self-examination as we probe deeply and respond honestly to how we are getting on with the process of transformation into a new person in Jesus Christ. It is a time of inner penitence and reconciliation with God as we prepare once again to receive the gift of Easter. It is a time to engage in personal and communal prayer, fasting, reading Scripture, and worship.

During the Lenten season our regular worship service will be somewhat different. On Ash Wednesday, the "Alleluias" will be buried until Easter morning. The Sanctuary is stripped of all flowers and flags, as we focus on the cross. All to return on Easter Sunday.

There will be a cross in the Chancel area with candles in it. During Advent, we light a candle every Sunday signifying the light coming into the world with Jesus' birth. During Lent, every Sunday we extinguish a candle, signifying that the light that came into the world, leaves the world, even if for a short time. The Christ candle is extinguished on Good Friday. It will not be until Easter morning that the light reenters the Sanctuary.

We are Easter people, but it is when we observe and participate in Lent, that we are able to experience the FULL joy of Easter.



to@f0m15/Adoba Stock

Ash Wednesday

February 26, 2020 7:00 Evening Service

ENTERING GOD'S HOUSEPlease enter in silent meditation.

Greeting

L: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

P: God's mercy endures forever.

Opening Prayer

Hymn

"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" UMH # 269 (Vs 1, 5)

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Old Testament

Psalm 51:1-3, 10-12

Anthem

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

Old Testament

Genesis 2:7 Psalm 103:8-14

Meditation

"You Are Dust But So Much More" Rev. Debra Short Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

Blessing Over The Ashes

Imposition of Ashes

Time of Confession and Silent Reflection

Words of Pardon

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

A Sign of Reconciliation and Love for Each Other

GOING FORTH

*Closing Hymn "Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes" See Insert

*Dismissal with Blessing

Please exit in silence.

You are invited to sit in the pews or kneel at the altar in quiet reflection after the dismissal. When you are ready, it is asked that you leave in silence.

^{*}Indicates for those who are able, please stand.

Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes Sunday's palms are Wednesday's ashes as another Lent begins;

in contrition for our sins.

We have marred baptismal pledges, in rebellion gone astray; now, returning, seek forgiveness; grant us pardon, God, this day!

thus we kneel before our Maker

We have failed to love our neighbors, their offences to forgive, have not listened to their troubles, nor have cared just how they live, we are jealous, proud, impatient, loving over much our things; may the yielding of our failings be our Lenten offerings.

We are hasty to judge others, blind to proof of human need; and our lack of understanding demonstrates our inner greed; we have wasted earth's resources; want and suffering we've ignored; come and cleanse us, then restore us; make new hearts within us, Lord!