

Simply rise and return to your pew as you feel led. Music during the Reception of Ashes: *O Come to the Altar*. Please join in singing as the Cross Connection band leads.

Congregational Response: Psalm 51 (with sung response # 1) Hymnal, page 785

***Pardon:**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

(7PM) Anthem *At Thy Feet* (J.S. Bach) Sanctuary Choir

The Sacrament of Holy Communion Please see the insert.

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.

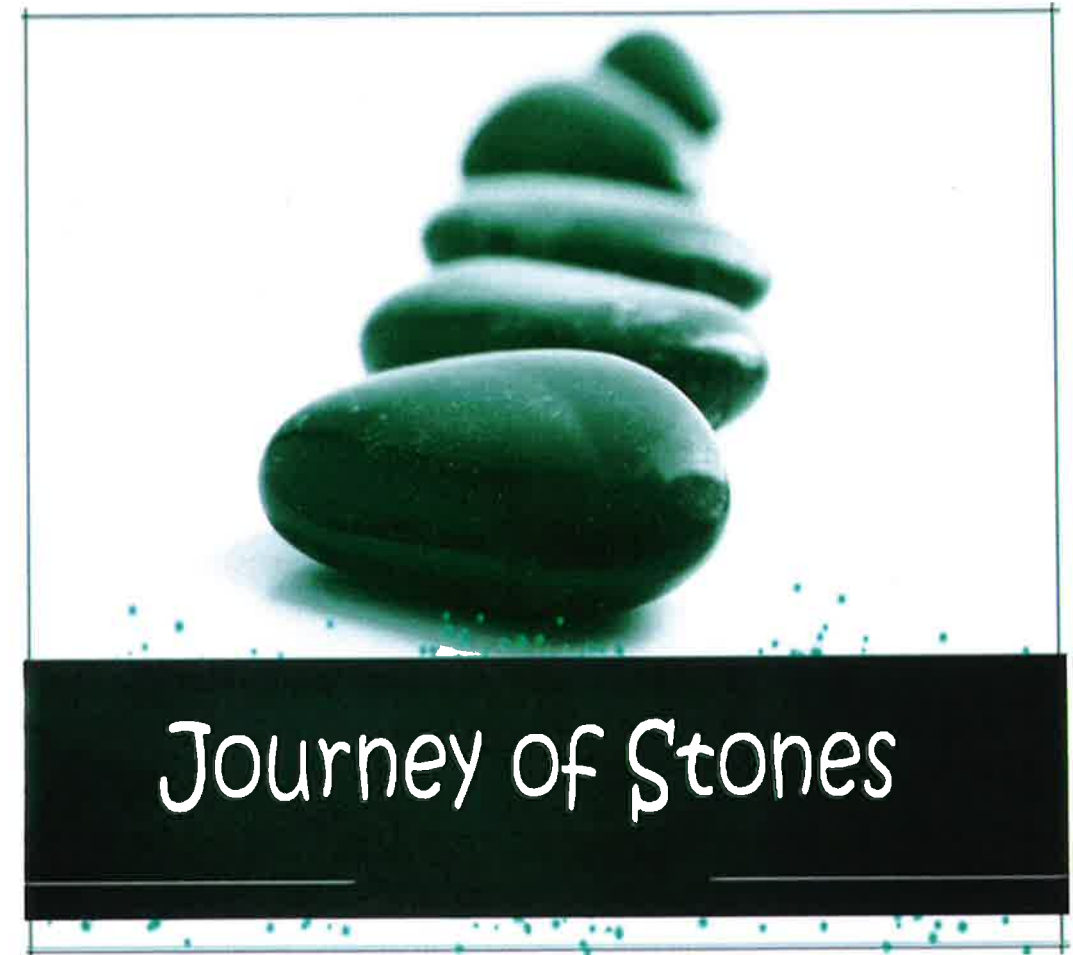
Receiving Communion

The congregation will approach the servers from the center aisle, receive a piece of bread from the loaf, dip the bread in the communion chalice, then eat it. Please return to your seat using the side aisles. You are welcome to bring your offering with you and place it in the plates at the front. Music during Communion: 12:00 p.m. *Here, O My Lord*, Charlie de Mets; 7:00 p.m. *I Surrender*. Please join in the singing as the Cross Connection band leads.

***Closing Hymn:** *Abide with Me* (v. 1, 3, and 5) Hymnal, #700

***Blessing and Sending**

***Postlude** *O Jesulein Suess* Kauffmann



An Ash Wednesday Service
Lehman Memorial
United Methodist Church

February 26, 2020; 12 and 7p.m.

Welcome. The time before worship is a time for fellowship and preparation. We invite you to greet one another and enjoy each other's company in the narthex or annex. Please be respectful of the quiet others appreciate. Thank you for turning off or muting cell phones. Our ushers are prepared to assist you in any way. *You are invited to stand as you are able. Please enter quietly.

Prelude *Vesper Voluntary Op. 14* Elgar

Greeting: The Lord be with you! **And also with you!**

Welcome and Introduction to the Service

Opening Poem *Dust to Dust* by Louis Gander

*From the ground with dust, formed man. And of the fruit, creation ate -
Oh, this world that God began. so plowed the fields, outside the gate.
He had only asked for trust. Was from the garden thrown, unjust?
Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.*

*Man confused, but thought so great - So ascertain his final fate -
so man, an idol did create - for man still thinks at this late date,
which then decayed in rot and rust. that knowledge proves he's so robust.
Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.*

*The clock keeps ticking - marches on. Close it now, the vast division,
It's certain who we call upon. God or self, it's your decision.
Into the future we are thrust - Life moves swiftly, dawn to dusk.
Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.*

***Opening Prayer:**

Creator God, God of earth and water, God of dust and ash: You are all around us, nearer than our own breath. May the ashes placed upon our foreheads today, remind us of who we are, and whose we are. May they remind us of the frailty of our lives and of our need to live each day to the fullest. May they be a sign of our willingness to face our mistakes and a promise to commit ourselves to leading godlier lives. We pray this in the name of the One who makes all things new, Christ Jesus our Lord, Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* Hymnal, #121

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

(7PM) Anthem: *Create in Me a Clean Heart* (Reeves) Kids Chorus and Disciples

(7PM) Children's Message

Scripture: Ezekiel 11:14-20

Brief Message: "Stone Hearts" Pastor Andy

Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

Call to Confession and Repentance Please see the insert.

Personal Confession

As you came in today, you were handed a stone. It is a reminder that we are mortal and sinful, and still have need to turn back to God – again and again. You are challenged to keep the stone with you throughout Lent during your awake hours not to remind you how terrible you are, but that there is work to be done. How will God break your heart of stone?

Thanksgiving over the Ashes

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that by your gracious gift are we given life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Imposition of Ashes

Please kneel at the chancel rail if you are able as the ushers direct you. Pastors Andy and Nancy will then administer ashes, if you wish to receive them. They will make the sign of the cross on your forehead or on the back of your hand. If you wish to have the ashes placed on your hand, please lift your hand palm down or indicate that in another way so they will know. You are welcome to stay at the rail and offer a brief personal prayer. (Cont.)

Call to Confession and Repentance

Standing between past and future, we remember the journey we will take again while we wait for that blessed Easter. We remember Jesus' birth into poverty. We remember how he grew up in wisdom and in years - how he invited disciples to follow him, how he stood up to the powers that be, how he touched the sinner and challenged the saint, how he preached good news to the poor and marginalized, how he cared as much for people's bodies as he did their souls.

We remember how he gathered his friends on the night he was betrayed, how he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: "take, eat, do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, he took the cup and said: "this is the cup of salvation, shed in my blood, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

For as long as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the resurrection of our living Savior until he comes again. And so, together, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit, may these gifts of bread and juice be your body and blood, even as you transform us to be your presence in this world.

We give you thanks that, even though we will return to dust, you nevertheless invite us to this meal as a friend.

Though we are not worthy of the grace received here, we are invited as the most beloved of companions. Send your Spirit to abide with us that we may abide with you.

All pray the Lord's Prayer.

God the Father, **have mercy on us.**
God the Son, **have mercy on us.**
God the Holy Spirit, **have mercy on us.**
Trinity of love, **have mercy on us.**

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Lord, have mercy.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you, Lord ...

All our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy and impatience of our lives.

Lord, have mercy.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people.

Lord, have mercy.

Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

Lord, have mercy.

Our uncontrolled love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work.

Lord, have mercy.

Our negligence in prayer and worship and our failure to commend the faith that is
in us.

Lord, have mercy.

Accept our repentance, Lord ...

For the wrongs we have done, for our blindness to human need and suffering, and
our indifference to injustice and cruelty.

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts towards our neighbors and for
our prejudice and contempt towards those who differ from us.

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those
who come after us.

Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
that we may show your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.



A Great Thanksgiving for Ash Wednesday

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of all goodness and grace, we have gathered on this solemn day to smear our
foreheads with ashes, to consider our sins as stones we carry, and to be bluntly
reminded of our mortality. You formed us from dust and to dust we shall return.
Yet even in the midst this solemnity...,

We give you thanks for calling us your children.

We give you thanks for calling us on this journey of stones.

We remember on this dark day, that we are human, and you alone are God.

In this season of Lent, we gather on a journey of trust as well; the trust that your
creation does not end with our death. Indeed, your creation knows no boundaries,
and, yet, we are bound inevitably to your will and your Word.

With all creation, in every time and place, we join the everlasting chorus:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Hosanna in the highest.