

# Ash Wednesday Service

February 13, 2013  
Highland Park UMC

6:30 p.m.  
Stillwater

## Gathering

Prelude  
Silent Reflection

Claudia Mornhinweg  
back of bulletin

Introit

Choir

“With Oil and Ashes”  
by Daniel Craig

\* Call to Worship (responsive)  
Gather the people, young and old.  
**The day of the Lord is coming.**  
Blow the trumpet!  
**The day of the Lord is coming.**  
“Return to me with all your heart,” says the Lord.  
**The day of the Lord is coming. It is coming near.**

\* Opening Hymn

TFWS 2138

“Sunday’s Palms are Wednesday’s Ashes”

## Proclamation

Psalter

UMH 785-786

“Psalm 51:1-17” (response 1)

New Testament Scripture Reading

Matthew 15:21-28

Prayer of Preparation

Pastor Derrek

Sermon

“Jesus the Human”

Hymn of Response

TFWS 2152

“Change My Heart, O God”

## Confession

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

**Merciful Savior, we confess to you and to one another that we fall far short of being all that you created us to be.**

**We have not loved you with our whole hearts, preferring instead to pursue our own way, erect idols of our own making and secure our own needs.**

**We have not loved our neighbors. In fact, very often our neighbors are invisible to us.**

**We are too preoccupied, too busy, too self-important to notice those who are different, lowly, needy or on the margins.**

**We have failed to love ourselves as well.**

**We overindulge our bodies, do not rest or exercise, and are impoverished in soul and spirit.**

**We cling to bitterness and anger, and grasp tightly to the hurts of yesterday rather than entrusting them to your healing and forgiving grace.**

**Forgive us, Lord. Grant us the desire and the faith to let go, putting all our days – past, present and future – in your safe and capable hands. For the sake of Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

## Response

Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline  
Thanksgiving over the Ashes

### Imposition of Ashes

Please start at the back of the sanctuary and work toward the front.  
During the imposition of ashes, would others please softly sing:

- “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” UMH 402
- “I Surrender All” UMH 354

## Departure

\* Closing Hymn

TFWS 2128

“Come and Find the Quiet Center”

\* Sending Forth (responsive)

May the peace of Christ bless your journey into Lent.

**May the peace of Christ bring forgiveness to your life.**

May the peace of Christ go with you today and always.

**And also with you.**

Now is the time, today is the day!

**Amen.**

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### *Words of Reflection*

#### “Cleaning House for Lent”

My room is cluttered, unrefined;  
files, unfiled, are piled askew.

It’s impossible to find  
the hidden keyboard that you knew  
was somewhere underneath.

Not too soon, Ash Wednesday!  
I’m energized to chuck the stuff, bequeath  
it to life’s junk yard. The day  
is longer, light displays my flaws!

Up! Up! You loathsome slob  
uphold the cause!

God calls: rise to the job!

But age has crept away with all the joys that please  
There’s little left for Lent except the memories.

*Poems from the Eighth Decade*

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