

SHARING OUR OFFERTORY,
LAYING DOWN OUR BURDENS,
TAKING COMMUNION, AND HAVING THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

Trad. American

As you come forward, please:

1. Place your offering in the baskets provided. GIVE YOUR GIFTS TO JESUS.
2. Place your piece of paper in the bowl of water and stir it until it fades away. GIVE YOUR WORRIES TO JESUS.
3. Receive Holy Communion by intinction: Take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and eat. GIVE YOUR LOVE TO JESUS.
4. Receive the imposition of ashes if you desire: A sign of the cross will be placed on your forehead with the ashes created by the burning of last year’s Palm Sunday palm crosses. GIVE YOUR LIFE TO JESUS.

UNISON PRAYER

This is the beginning of a season of self-reflection and prayer. Draw us closer to you, Gracious God, that we might feel your presence by our side at all times. Draw us closer to you, Precious Lord, that we might feel your peace in our hearts. Draw us closer to you, Beloved God, that we might know your purpose for our lives. Draw us closer to you, so that your presence, your peace and your purpose will give us the power we need to transform the world into the place you would have it be. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Take Up Thy Cross”

UMH #415

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Shepherd, Show Me How To Go”

Jordan

*Please stand as you are able.

THE PAPER: The paper and pencil in your bulletin are to be used by you to write one or two words that describe what is keeping you from a closer relationship with God. This is soluble paper and will dissolve in the bowl of water at the foot of the cross symbolizing the separation between you and God will disappear if you give it to God and remember your baptism with gratitude.

HOLY COMMUNION: The Table of the Lord in the United Methodist Church is open to all people regardless of age, or church affiliation. John Wesley saw communion as a means of grace where all can find a relationship with Christ Jesus. Due to the church’s stand for social action, the cup is filled with grape juice so those suffering from addiction to alcohol may partake and little children are welcome.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES: The ashes are a symbol of our humanity and mortality. It is said that “from dust we came and to dust we will return...” In ancient days mourning and repentance were represented by the wearing of sack cloth and ashes. On this night we remind ourselves of the sacrifice Jesus made for us that we might have eternal life. These earthly bodies will die and return to dust, yet thanks be to God, we have salvation for our souls through Jesus Christ.



The Painesville United Methodist Church

Our mission is to creatively and actively educate, worship, pray, serve and give in the name of Jesus Christ!



Ash Wednesday Worship
March 1, 2017
7:00 p.m.

Pastor Jan Yandell
Fritz Streiff, Director of Music Ministries

Ash Wednesday Worship

Pastor: Jan Yandell
Organ and Piano: Mary and Bob Brown

PRELUDE "Amazing Grace" (American Folk Melody) arr. Baylor

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION IN SONG "Come and Find the Quiet Center" FWS #2128

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord says, "Return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing."

People: "Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love."

Leader: "Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people."

People: "Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast."

Leader: We come seeking your mercy.

People: Sanctify us, Lord. Quiet our souls and create in us a clean heart. (Excerpts from Joel 2)

*OPENING HYMN "Take Time to be Holy" UMH #395

*UNISON PRAYER

This is the day of the Lord! O Lord, proclaim to the people the good news that your day is their day, too. Show us the stepping stones, one by one, with which Jesus marked the road that leads to you – the Jesus who faced every trial with which we could be tested, but was upheld by none of them. The Jesus who was tempted by every vice to which we are vulnerable, but was subdued by none of them; the Jesus who was treated as if he were below our contempt, but who died as one above our reproach. Forgive us, O God, for having buried his stepping stones beneath our stumbling blocks. Create in us a clean heart and renew a right spirit within us, not only that we may walk in his shoes, but that we may add new stepping stones to those he has already laid. Amen.

ANTHEM "Mercy" arr. Craig Courtney
Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE Psalm 51:1-17 Page 492 in pew Bible

MESSAGE "Have Mercy On Me" Pastor Jan Yandell

COMMUNION LITURGY IN SONG AND WORD

HYMN OF PREPARATION "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH #95

LAYING OUR OFFERINGS IN THE BASKETS PROVIDED

Leader: Yearly, monthly, weekly, daily, we store up monies, talents, and gifts for ourselves, our families, and friends. Yet, we came into the world with nothing and we will leave the world the same. All that we have gained is only by the grace of God. John Wesley said that if he died with 10 pieces of silver in his pocket; money he did not give to those in need, then he was worse than a thief.

People: Remind us each day of our gifts from you, O God, and let us freely and joyfully remember each day the gifts we must give. All we have belongs to Christ and Christ alone.

HYMN OF PREPARATION "Cares Chorus" FWS #2215

DISSOLVING OUR TROUBLES AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

Leader: Yearly, monthly, weekly, daily, we lift on our shoulders the burdens of our own wrongdoings, other's inflictions upon us, the world's problems and sadness. Trying to carry the load we falter, striving to let it go we fail.

People: Only Christ can help us carry our load. Only Christ can take it from our shoulders and free us from the burden. Only Christ can forgive our wrongdoing, help us to forgive those who have hurt us and save the world from its problems and sadness. Only Christ.

HYMN OF PREPARATION "Fill My Cup, Lord" UMH #641

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION BY INTINCTION

Leader: Yearly, monthly, weekly, daily, we are hungry for the love of God and thirsty for God's forgiveness. It is at this table that Jesus calls us to take the bread, eat it and become one with his body. It is at this table that Jesus calls us to drink from the cup of forgiveness that our desire for salvation will be quenched by his blood.

People: We take and eat in remembrance of Christ as we become a part of his body: waking, walking and working in this world. We take the cup and drink and become as one with Christ, his blood flowing through our veins, his love encompassing our lives, his forgiveness cleansing our hearts. We are the body of Christ redeemed by his blood.

HYMN OF PREPARATION "Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes" FWS #2138

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Leader: Yearly, monthly, weekly, daily we are aware of our own mortality. When we were born, we began to die. It is the cycle of life we live: heavenly, earthly and heavenly again. From whence we have come, there shall we return. It is God's way and God will lead us through it and in time, bring us home.

People: These ashes remind us of our beginning and help us to understand our future. No earthly body will last forever, no flesh and bone will be spared. Yet, in Christ Jesus, our spirits will be lifted to God's spirit and will commune with God in eternity. Ashes to ashes goes the body. Ashes to glory goes the soul. Amen.