



St. Paul's United Methodist



Ash Wednesday

February 10th, 2016

St Paul's UMC
Ash Wednesday Service
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Gathering

***Greeting**

Leader: The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: God's mercy endures for ever.

****Hymns of Praise**

UMH 292

What Wondrous Love Is This?

UMH 593

This? Here I Am, Lord

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 51:1, 10-17

All Respond: *Create in Me a Clean Heart, o God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

All Respond: *Create in Me a Clean Heart, o God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

Sermon: *"Be careful when you are trying to be good..."*

Offertory

***Doxology—UMH 95**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

Invitation to the Observance of a Lenten Discipline

Thanksgiving over the Ashes:

Leader: 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 only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen* .

Imposition of Ashes:

Leader: Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return

Prayer of Confession:

Leader: Lord, we confess our day to day failure to be truly human.

People: Lord, we confess to you.

Leader: Lord, we confess that we often fail to love with all we have and are, often because we do not fully understand what loving means, often because we are afraid of risking ourselves.

People: Lord, we confess to you.

Leader: Lord, we cut ourselves off from each other and erect barriers of division

People: Lord, we confess to you.

Leader: Lord, we confess that by silence and ill-considered word

People: we have built up walls of prejudice.

Leader: Lord, we confess that by selfishness and lack of sympathy

People: we have stifled generosity and left little time for others.

Leader: Holy Spirit, speak to us. Help us listen to your word of forgiveness, for we are very deaf. Come, fill this moment and free us from sin.

Words of Assurance and Pardon:

Leader: Hear the Good News. The LORD, our God, is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love (Joel 2:13). God hears the earnest cries of the repentant and forgives our sins. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

***Hymn of Invitation:**

FWS 2196

We Walk by Faith; verse 1-3 only

***Blessing**

Leader: May God, who has forgiven us and fed us now make us strong for these days ahead. May Jesus lead us, and we be found faithful to follow. May the Spirit drive us into the wilderness, burning away the chaff of our lives, and purifying our hearts for all to see and be blessed. And may the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with us and remain with us always!

ALL: Amen.

***Sending Forth Hymn**

UMH 301

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

Upcoming Sermon Series:

The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus

Using historical information, archaeological data, and stories of the faith, we will follow in the footsteps of Jesus from his baptism to the temptations to the heart of his ministry, including the people he loved, the parables he taught, the enemies he made, and the healing he brought. We will be focusing on the following topics:

February 14th: Baptism and Temptation

February 21st: The Healing Ministry

February 28th: Proclaiming the Kingdom

March 6th: Calming the Storms

March 13th: Sinners, Outcasts, and the Poor

March 20th, Palm Sunday: The Final Week

March 27th, Easter: Our Defining Story

We hope you will join us this Sunday for this upcoming series.

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