

Salem United Methodist Church

Ash Wednesday Service

February 26, 2020 7:00 PM

A Service of Word and Ash

The color is purple to denote the sorrow of over our sinful natures.

GATHERING WITH PRELUDE

*GREETING & OPENING PRAYER

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Bless the lord who forgives all our sins.

God's mercy endures forever.

O God, maker of everything and judge of all that you have made,
From the dust of the earth you formed us and from the dust of death you will raise us up. By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit, that we may repent of our sins and lead lives worthy of your calling; through Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.

*HYMN 269 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

EPISTLE READING 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

*GOSPEL READING Matthew 6:1-4, 16-21

HOMILY

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF A LENTEN DISCIPLINE

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

CHORAL ANTHEM *Dust I Am*

CONFESSION adapted from "Psalm 51"

Let us pray,

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; Surely, I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. You

do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Have Mercy O Lord

PARDON

May the almighty and merciful God, who desires not the death of a sinner but that we turn from wickedness and live, accept your repentance, forgive your sins, and restore you by the Holy Spirit to newness of life. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray,

All things come from you, O God, and with praise and thanksgiving we return to you what is yours. You created all that is, and with love formed us in your image. When our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior, that we might have abundant and eternal life. All that we are, and all that we have, is a trust from you. And so, in gratitude for all that you have done, we offer you ourselves, and all that we have, in union with Christ's offering for us. By your Holy Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN 2133 *Give Me a Clean Heart (x3)*

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

*GOING FORTH

*Indicates that the Congregation stands. If standing is uncomfortable, please remain seated and continue with your participation.

Bold Titles indicate Congregation Participation.

A Welcome to Our Guests!

We are honored that you are worshipping with us today. We encourage you to complete the "red book" registration located in the pew to record your presence. Feel free to introduce yourself to those around you and visit our Welcome Center. We have a welcome gift for all first time guests. Please consult with a greeter on your way out from service today or drop by the Welcome Center station to retrieve your gift. Should you have need for a hearing aid or a large print hymnal, please check with an usher and they will be happy to attend to your need. We hope you will return to join us again in Worship!