

Ash Wednesday Service

February 14, 2024 | 6:00pm

Gathering For Praise

*Greeting

We stand before a very holy God who calls us into a life of holiness.

But we are unholy. Even our religious ceremonies do not cleanse us of our sins.

God wants us to be truly penitent in our hearts, more than God wants our religious ceremonies. Then God will cleanse us of our sins.

May our worship be an honest expression of repentance and returning to God.

*Hymn 'Lord Who Throughout These 40 Days' UMH 269

*Psalter Psalm 51:1-17 UMH 751

*The Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Amen.

Prayer

O God, maker of everything and judge of all that you have made, from the dust of the earth you have formed us, and from the dust of death you would 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.

Old Testament Lesson Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Gospel Lesson Mark 8:27-38

Homily "A Time for Sifting" Rev. Brian Gilmer

Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

Thanksgiving over the Ashes

UMH: United Methodist Hymnal TFWS: The Faith We Sing Hymnal

*Please stand if you are able.

Imposition of the Ashes

Participants are invited to come – a row at a time – to the center of the chancel rail. After the minister has placed the sign of the cross on your forehead, you are invited to kneel at the chancel rail. While there, confess a specific sin. Ask God's forgiveness. Then, when you are ready, return to your pew.

Prayer of Confession

O, God, when we pause to look back at our lives on this Ash Wednesday, we realize that we have been weighed in the balance and found wanting.

We have neglected to do good when it was in our power to do so.

We, like believers of old, have pulled down your altars and erected idols crafted in our own image.

We have turned our backs on the poor.

We have ignored the cries of the orphan, the widow, and the widower.

We have bankrupted our hearts and lives with our greed and consumed more than our share of the world's riches.

We have not dealt honorably with our enemies or our friends.

Forgive us, O God, for turning sackcloth and ashes into a fashion statement by pursuing form without substance.

Forgive us, O God, for the times we have neglected to provide our children and our world an authentic example of Christianity.

As we begin the journey of these 40 days

Wash us, O God and we shall be clean

Cleanse us, O Lord, and we shall be made whole. Amen.

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.

*Hymn 'Take Time to be Holy' UMH 395

Depart in Silence

Ash Wednesday emphasizes the dual themes of sin and death in the light of God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ. The use of ashes as a sign of repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. The imposition of ashes can be a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. This practice is the historic focus of Ash Wednesday and gave the day its name.

Travelers Rest United Methodist Church

The Church on the Trail

Walking with Christ, Serving God, Changing Lives.

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ASH WEDNESDAY

Rev. Brian Gilmer

brian@trmethodist.net

864-345-4784

Rev. Christine Matthews

christine@trmethodist.net

864-915-4737

Address:

19 South Main Street

Travelers Rest, SC 29690

864.834.9862

Office Hours: M-Th, 9am—1:00pm

E-mail: info@trmethodist.net

Website: www.trmethodist.net