

# Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023

6:30pm



God of grace,  
my life is in ashes.  
breathe your breath into that dust,  
that I may be created anew,  
and live by the grace  
of your Spirit alone. \*\*

A joint worship service of  
*First Mennonite Church &  
Community Church  
of the Brethren*

**Piano:** Pauline Buller  
**Worship Leaders:** Tonya Ramer Wenger,  
Matt Christian  
**Meditation:** Matt Christian  
**Scripture Readers:** Jane Sampson, Jim  
Unruh, David Sampson

## GATHERING

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### Music for Meditation

#### Call to Worship\*

Leader: Come, you who are toiling, you who are bound-up;  
People: **Come, Liberating God, hear our cries for mercy!**  
Leader: Come, you who are lost, you who are hopeless;  
People: **Come, Redeeming Christ, turn us to your light!**  
Leader: Come, you who are angry, you who are hurting;  
People: **Come, Cleansing Spirit, enter in to our hearts!**  
Leader: Come, for confession, for forgiveness, for restoration!  
People: **Come, O Holy One, free us, heal us, bless us!**

HYMN *I heard the voice of Jesus say* VT 536

## SCRIPTURE, SONG & PRAYER

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*Psalm 139:1-18*

Silence

Prayer of Confession\*\*

HYMN *Quietly, Peacefully* VT 533

*John 3:1-8*

Silence

Meditation

*Romans 8:18-27*

Silence

HYMN *Oh Lord, Hear My Prayer* VT 685

## RECEIVING THE ASHES OF FORGIVENESS & PRAYING AROUND THE CROSS

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*You are invited to come forward to receive ashes whenever you are ready. Ashes will be placed on your forehead unless you indicate you'd prefer to have them placed on the back of your hand. Before or after receiving ashes, you are also invited to light a candle and to place it around the cross as an expression of your prayers tonight.*

HYMN *You Are All We Have* VT 701

## SENDING

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### Benediction

HYMN *Abide With Me* VT 502

*You are welcome to stay and pray as long as you'd like  
before leaving to begin this year's Lenten journey.*

\* REV. MARY NELSON ABBOTT

\*\* STEVE GARNAAS-HOLMES

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Most holy and merciful God,  
**To you to one another we confess our sin. We have sinned in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, mind, soul and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven as you have forgiven us.**

We have been untrue to the spirit of Christ.  
We have grieved you, and we are sorrowful.  
**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our unfaithfulness to you, our distrust, our neglect of your faithful grace, our failure to live wholly for you.

**we confess to you, God.**

Our unfaithfulness in prayer and worship, our failure to nurture the faith that is in us, our negligence of the Holy Spirit,

**we confess to you, God.**

Our self-indulgence and exploitation of others, our participation in injustice and oppression, and our failure to act or speak out, our love of worldly goods and comforts, our defense of our privilege, our pride and impatience, our envy and our quickness to judge and not to heal.

**we confess to you, God.**

Our waste and pollution of your creation, our blindness to the awe and beauty which you have given us,

**we confess to you, God.**

Accept our repentance, God, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and to your presence in the poor, for our indifference to injustice and cruelty, for our failure to love courageously

**accept our repentance, God.**

For our judgments, fear, anger and all uncharitable thoughts toward others, for our prejudice and contempt of those who differ from us, for all that is hurtful that we have done,

**accept our repentance, God.**

Restore us, gracious God, for your mercy is great.

**Hear us, O God,**

**for your grace is the source of our life. AMEN**

