



Ash Wednesday

6:30pm

February 14, 2024

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP*

Music for Meditation

Peggy Stucky

Gathering Words

Tonya Ramer Wenger

HYMN *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me* VT 306

Peggy Stucky, Pauline Buller

READINGS & RESPONSES

+ *Ashes, a sign of creation*

Matt Christian

Genesis 2:4b-9

Bob Alumbaugh

Silence

Response (from Psalm 8):

O Lord, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

*When I look to the heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you established—*

what are human beings that you are mindful of us?

Mortals that you care for us?

*Yet you have made us only a little less than divine
and crowned us with glory and honor.*

O Lord, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

+ *Ashes, a sign of mortality*

Tonya Ramer Wenger

Genesis 3:8-13, 17-19

Delon Martens

Silence

HYMN *Create in Me a Clean Heart* VT 141

Peggy Stucky, Pauline Buller

+ *Ashes, a sign of repentance*

Matt Christian

Isaiah 58:1-12

Anita Christian

Silence

Response (from Psalm 130):

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord

Lord hear my voice!

Be attentive to my supplication!

If you should count our sins against us, Lord, who could stand?

But with you is forgiveness, so that you may be revered.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits for God,

more than those who watch for the morning,

more than those who watch for the dawn.

Hope in the Lord forever, for with God is steadfast love and power to save.

+ *Ashes, in the sign of the Cross*

Tonya Ramer Wenger

Mark 8:27-37

Sara Blodgett

Silence

HYMN *I bind my heart this tide* VT 556

Peggy Stucky, Pauline Buller

Receiving Ashes & Praying Around the Cross

Blessing of the Ashes

Matt Christian

Invitation to receive the Sign of Ashes

Tonya Ramer Wenger

If you wish to receive ashes, please come forward. Ashes will be placed on your forehead, or if you prefer to receive ashes on the back of your hand, just extend your hand instead.

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.

+ *Ashes, as fertile ground*

Tonya Ramer Wenger

HYMN *Healer of our every ill* VT 644

Peggy Stucky, Pauline Buller

BLESSING (cf. Isaiah 61:1-4)

Matt Christian

Response:

And I shall greatly rejoice in the Lord;

for God has clothed me in garments of salvation,

and covered me with a robe of righteousness!

As the earth brings forth its shoots,

so God will cause justice and praise

to spring up before all nations!

SENDING HYMN: *Gentle Shepherd, Come and Lead Us* VT 718

Peggy Stucky, Pauline Buller

PEACE Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

*Share with each other a sign of Christ's peace ... then depart into the night,
and into your Lenten journey with Jesus, the Gentle Shepherd, as your guide.*

***This service is adapted from one created by J. Mary Luti, retired seminary professor and
United Church of Christ pastor, including the Gathering Words,
Readings & Responses exploring the Ashes, and Sending Blessing.**