



everything [in] between

intention & action

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5, 2025 @ 7:00pm

Jesus turns toward Jerusalem

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

(Poem and prayers included in this service written by
Rev. Sarah A. Speed / A Sanctified Art LLC / sanctifiedart.org)

Gathering Music

June Goodman

Poem: *Both. Please*

Magdalena Wenger

Welcome

Tonya Ramer Wenger

CALL TO WORSHIP

If you have days when you feel a little bit lost and a little bit found,
then you are in the right place.

If you have days when you are desperate for rest and eager to grow,
then you are in the right place.

If you have days when your prayers could be both shouts and silence,
then you are in the right place.

God meets us here, in the messy middle of our lives.

So may we bring our full selves into this service and into this season.

With God's help, may it be so.

Let us worship our all-loving God.

HYMN *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* VT 536

Anita Christian, June Goodman

PSALM – 5:1-8 (CEB)

Jim Unruh

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus said, "Follow me."
And I said, *let me get ready.*
Jesus said, "follow me."
And I said, *just one minute!*
Jesus said, "Follow me."
And I said, *I'll be there soon!*
The invitation is simple, but the work is hard.
Jesus, forgive my delay.
I want to follow you.
Turn my intentions into actions.
Show me the way. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Lent asks,
"How will you go deeper? How will you follow Christ?"
Regardless of what that journey looks like for us,
regardless of what today, tomorrow, or the next day brings,
we are not alone.
We are seen and loved by God.
We are held in grace.
Thanks be to God for a love like that.

HYMN *Spirit, Open My Heart* VT 636

Prayer for Illumination

Anita Christian

Scripture Reading *Luke 9:51-62*

Meditation

Matthew Christian

Silence

HYMN *Will You Come and Follow Me* VT 540

Receiving Ashes & Praying Around the Cross *(with music for meditation)*

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.

Affirmation of faith

We believe in Jesus Christ,
who said to ordinary people, "Follow me,"
and with his love, changed the world.
We believe in the Holy Spirit
who tethers us to all of creation,
nudging us toward deeper and more intentional faith.
And we believe in the Creator
who brings the sun over the horizon each morning,
allowing every day to be a new beginning.
So with this new day,
with Jesus' invitation ringing in our ears,
and the Holy Spirit's tethering love,
we realign our hopes with our words,
our dreams with our prayers,
our intentions with our actions.
Jesus, we believe.
Guide our feet. Amen.

HYMN *Move in Our Midst* VT 827

BENEDICTION

As you leave this place,
may you find God in every messy middle.
May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.
May you trust that you are made in the image of God,
and therefore, you contain multitudes.
So may you move through this world with an open heart,
with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone.
God is with you in the mountains,
in the valleys,
and everywhere in between.
Believe that good news, and go in peace.

*This Lenten season, what are your intentions?
Do you have any hopes for these six weeks?*

What keeps you from taking action?

God be with me here. God be with me there. Show me love along the way. AMEN

-from the Daily Devotional Cards – Ash Wednesday (sanctifiedart.org)



Toward Jerusalem (Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman – digital painting)