

A Service of Worship for Ash Wednesday

PRELUDE **Give Me Jesus** Arranged / Hamlin

THE GREETING Reverend Edward McCutcheon

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 for ever.

Opening Prayer Reverend Edward McCutcheon

*HYMN – No. 269 **Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days**

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Lay Servant

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2 Lay Servant

*HYMN- No. 395 **Take Time To Be Holy**

THIRD SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Lay Servant

THE MEDITATION Reverend Edward McCutcheon

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: the early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation. During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the church.

In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the church, to observe a holy Lent: By self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word. To make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature let us now bow before our Creator and Redeemer.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
AMEN.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

A PSALM OF CONFESSION- No. 785 Psalm 51:1-17

ACT OF RECONCILIATION

Minister: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Response: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Minister: Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one to another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.
Response: To you, Lord.
Minister: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

THE OFFERTORY **Amazing Grace** Arranged/DeFore

*DOXOLOGY – No. 95

*HYMN – No. 402 **Lord, I Want To Be a Christian**

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

*DEPARTURE IN SILENCE

(* Please stand as you are able.

LENT

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means “spring”. The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. The First Sunday describes Jesus’ temptation by Satan; and the Sixth Sunday (Passion/Palm Sunday), Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent passion and death. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter: We confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith. The form and content of the service focus on 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 mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship, and the Imposition of Ashes can be a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation.

(The United Methodist book of Worship)



**March 1, 2017
6:00 P.M.**

**Berea Friendship
United Methodist Church**
8001 White Horse Road
Greenville, SC 29617
Office Phone: 864-246-4311
Pastor’s Home: 864-534-1196
www.bereafriendshipumc.com
Rev. Enrique R. Gordon, Pastor

