

Service of Worship

March 5, 2025

Ash Wednesday

Matthew 6:21: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Welcome

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.

Hymn No. 697 *“Take My Life”* vs.1-3, 5-6

Scripture: Joel 2:1, 12-13

Prayer of Confession

Jesus said, “Follow me.” And we said, let me get ready. Jesus said, “follow me.” And we said, just one minute! Jesus said, “Follow me.” And we said, I’ll be there soon! The invitation is simple, but the work is hard. Jesus, forgive our delay, we want to follow you. Turn our intentions into actions. Show us the way.

Silent confession

In the name of Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Scripture: Luke 9:51-62

Meditation

Music: *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus* – Jadon Lavik

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.

Invitation to The Observance of the Lenten Discipline

Imposition of the Ashes

Scripture: Psalm 51:1-10, 17

Music: *Lord, I Want To Be A Christian* - Moses Hogan Singers

Benediction Poem: Both, Please (insert)

Both, Please

It's one thing to speak of love. It's another
to hold a newborn in your arms,
to sing someone to sleep,
to lean down and listen for their breathing.

It's one thing to speak of faith. It's another
to press your forehead to the floor,
to cry out in prayer,
to ask the hard questions and still
thank God for the meal.

It's one thing to speak of the Divine. It's another
to walk under a tunnel of wisteria,
to stand barefoot at the edge of the sea,
to hear the birds sing as the sun returns
and whisper, Thank you, thank you, thank you.

It's one thing and another, so I pray,
Give me both, please. Show me both, please.

By Rev. Sarah Are Speed

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