

# TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH

FEBRUARY 14, 2024, 12 Noon and 6:45pm

The Rev. Richard G. Reed, Pastor

**"All are from the dust,  
and to dust all return."**

Ecclesiastes 3:20, ESV



## Ash Wednesday Service

(During the 12 Noon Service the music is omitted)

### -WE GATHER IN QUIET CONTEMPLATION-

**PRELUDE**

**"Into The Woods My Master Went"**

**Peter Lufkin**

### **GREETING AND INVOCATION**

Celebrant: Grace and peace to you from God. Let us look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was waiting endured the cross.

**People: God, fill us with your grace and peace.**

Celebrant: Together let us pray.

**Almighty and merciful God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: create in us new and contrite hearts, so that when we turn to you and confess our sins we may receive your full and perfect forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

**HYMN**

**"All Praise To Thee, My God, This Night" Vv.1,2,3,5**

**#682**

**1. All praise to thee, my God, this night, for all the blessings of the light;  
Keep me, O keep me, King of kings, beneath thine own almighty wings.**

2. Forgive me, Lord, for thy dear Son, the ills that I this day have done;  
That with the world, myself, and thee, I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.

3. Teach me to live, that I may dread The grave as little as my bed.  
Teach me to die, that so I may Rise glorious at the judgment day.

5. Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

## **PASSING THE PEACE**

*Celebrant: The peace of Christ be with you.*

**People: And also with you.**

*C: Let us share words and signs of welcome and peace with our neighbors.*

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**Joel 2:1-2,12-17**

Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
    sound the alarm on my holy mountain!  
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,  
    for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
    a day of clouds and thick darkness!  
Like blackness spread upon the mountains  
    a great and powerful army comes;  
their like has never been from of old,  
    nor will be again after them  
in ages to come.  
Yet even now, says the LORD,  
    return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
    rend your hearts and not your clothing.  
Return to the LORD, your God,  
    for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
    and relents from punishing.  
Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
    and leave a blessing behind him,

a grain offering and a drink offering  
for the LORD, your God?  
Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sanctify a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
gather the people.  
Sanctify the congregation;  
assemble the aged;  
gather the children,  
even infants at the breast.  
Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
and the bride her canopy.  
Between the vestibule and the altar  
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.  
Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,  
and do not make your heritage a mockery,  
a byword among the nations.  
Why should it be said among the peoples,  
'Where is their God?'"  
Here ends the reading.

**PSALTER**

**Psalm 51:1-17 Resp 1**

**#785**

**R**     **Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.** 

Liturgist: Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;

**People: according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.**

L: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin!

**P: For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.**

L: Against you, you only, have I sinned,  
and done that which is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless in your judgment.

**P: Behold, I was born into iniquity,  
and I have been sinful since my mother conceived me.**    **R**

L: Behold, you desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

**P: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow;**

L: Make me hear with joy and gladness;  
let the bones which you have broken rejoice.

**P: Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities. R**

L: Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.

**P: Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your holy Spirit from me.**

L: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

**P: Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.**

L: Deliver me from death, O God, God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

**P: O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall show forth your praise.**

L: For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
were I to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

**P: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. R**

## **GOSPEL**

### **Matthew 6:1-6,16-21**

“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them;  
for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the  
hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be  
praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But  
when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is

doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

## **MEDITATION**

### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Celebrant: As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor.*

*Repentance, fasting, prayer, study, and works of love help us return to that love.*

*I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to love God and neighbor by confessing your sin and by asking God for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.*

Liturgist: Let us confess our sin before Almighty God. Let us pray.

**People: Most Holy and Merciful God, we confess to you and to one another that we have not loved you with all our heart, and soul, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.**

L: We have been deaf to your call to serve. We have been unfaithful, proud, and hypocritical. We have neglected prayer and worship, and have failed to commend the faith that is in us.

**P: Lord, have mercy on us.**

L: We have been self-centered, and have taken advantage of others. We have been envious of those more fortunate than ourselves. We have loved worldly goods and comforts too much. We have been dishonest in daily life and work.

**P: Christ, have mercy on us.**

L: We have been blind to human need and suffering, and indifferent to injustice and cruelty. We have thought uncharitably about others, and we have been prejudiced towards those who differ from us.

**P: Lord, have mercy on us.**

L: We have wasted and polluted your creation, and lacked concern for those who come after us. We have allowed the political realm to influence our faith in order to achieve its own selfish agenda.

**P: Hear us as we call out to you, O God.**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

**“Lord Have Mercy”  
Laura Currie Chancel Choir**

**Helen Gregory**

## **MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION**

*Celebrant: Together, let us pray.*

**Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done and the good we have left undone. We have sinned in ignorance and in weakness. We here express our sorrow, repent of our ways and turn to you. Forgive us, for the sake of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and renew our lives to the glory of your name.**

## **HYMN**

**“Sunday’s Palms Are Wednesday’s Ashes”**

**Insert**

**1. Sunday's palms are Wednesday's ashes as another Lent begins;  
Thus we kneel before our Maker in contrition for our sins.  
We have marred baptismal pledges, In rebellion gone astray;  
Now, returning, seek forgiveness; Grant us pardon, God, this day!**

**2. We have failed to love our neighbors, their offences to forgive,  
Have not listened to their troubles, nor have cared just how they live,**

**We are jealous, proud, impatient, loving over much our things;  
May the yielding of our failings be our Lenten offerings**

**3. We are hasty to judge others, blind to proof of human need;  
And our lack of understanding demonstrates our inner greed;  
We have wasted earth's resources; want and suffering we've ignored;  
Come and cleanse us, then restore us; make new hearts within us, Lord!**

## **BLESSING AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*Celebrant: 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 Lord, 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.*

*(A brief silence is kept, the congregation bowed)*

*Let us pray:*

*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.***

*(Those wishing to receive ashes are invited to come forward)*

*(Ashes are imposed with these words)*

**From dust you were made, and to dust you shall return.**

And/or

**Repent and believe the Gospel.**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*Celebrant: May the almighty and merciful God, who desires not the death of a sinner but that we turn from wickedness and live, accept your repentance, forgive your sins, and restore you by the Holy Spirit to newness of life. Amen.*

**HYMN**

**“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”**

**Insert**

**1. Lord, who throughout these forty days, For us didst fast and pray,  
Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins, And close by Thee to stay.**

**2. As Thou with Satan didst contend, And didst the vict'ry win,  
O give us strength in Thee to fight, In Thee to conquer sin.**

**3. As Thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, So teach us, gracious Lord, To die  
to self, and chiefly live By Thy most holy Word.**

**4. And through these days of penitence, And through Thy Passiontide,  
Yea, evermore, in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.**

**5. Abide with us, that so, this life Of suffering over past,  
An Easter of unending joy We may attain at last!**

### **BENEDICTION**

*Go forth into the world in the strength of God's mercy to live and serve in newness of life. And may Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven, bless and keep you. May the Lamb of God who laid down his life for all, graciously smile upon you. May the Lord God order all your days and deeds in peace.*

**People: Amen. Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**“Jesus, Lover Of My Sole”**

**Lee Dengler**

**- WE DEPART IN QUIET CONTEMPLATION -**

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**Please take a copy of our TUCC Lenten Devotional Booklet, which begins today and has a thought, poem or prayer for every day of Lent through Easter Sunday; many of them written by our own members. If you know someone who would enjoy it, please take one for them as well.**

**There are also Lenten Coin Boxes for any who wish to participate in Lenten Giving. You may wish to follow the printed sheet of suggested offerings for each day in Lent or to adopt your own plan of giving (eg. Putting all loose pocket change into the box). Please return the box on Easter Sunday.**