

**CONGREGATION:** *Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.*

**LEADER:** You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

**CONGREGATION:** *My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.*

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus said, "Come to me all of you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Friends, you may lay your burdens down here; we offer to you in their place the grace of Christ Jesus.

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE** *What Wondrous Love is This* UMH No. 292

**\*BENEDICTION/BLESSING** Rev. Zeke Allen

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY** *O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair* Kay McAfee  
-by Bert Carlson

*\*Please stand if able*

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This is a Sanctuary, a place of peace. With the exception of municipal, county, state or federal law enforcement, carrying a gun on First United Methodist Church property is prohibited. Thank you for respecting this covenant of trust.

*Adopted by First United Methodist Church Council, October 10, 2017.*

# CONTRITION



# MATTHEW 6:1-21

# Worship for the Lord's Day

February 22, 2023  
Ash Wednesday

Special Worship Service  
Arkadelphia, AR

## WELCOME

## OPENING VOLUNTARY

Kay McAfee

-by Douglas Wagner

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters.

***We come to drink deeply of the living waters offered by Jesus.***

Come, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens.

***We come to rest in Christ.***

Come from all directions, from all walks of life. Come, young and old, rich and poor, believers and doubters. Come all; you are called and loved by God.

***We come to worship God, to journey with Jesus, to walk in the way of Christ.***

## A CALL TO HOLY LENT

"Lent is a season of reflection and repentance. It invites us to look inside our hearts, seeing ourselves with compassion and truth — to see both our brokenness and our beauty, our failings and our faithfulness. In this season we're inviting you to enter into a deeper commitment to the way of Jesus. Take a moment to silently name it now. In this way we individually make our commitments, but at the same time are aware that we can live out these intentions only as a community of faith together.

"Traditionally Lent has been a time of fasting, allowing the fast to enter into our lives as a call to prayer. You might fast from coffee — each morning being reminded that you are to be filled and energized with God's blessings; you might fast from television — reminded to go outside and take in the drama and beauty of creation; or you might fast from fast food — reminding yourself to slow down and think about the source of our sustenance as you prepare your own meals. As the fast interrupts our normal way of being, we are reminded to be in prayer.

"Let us this day commit together to keep this Lenten season holy. Set it apart from other times, to make of ourselves, our very lives, an offering to our gracious and loving God. Let us take up our crosses and follow Jesus."

*"What's the story with LENT." Into the Deep. Province of Meribah, 03/2013.*

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE

TFWS No. 2138

*Sunday's Palms are Wednesday's Ashes*

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Joel 2:1-2,12-17*

## PASTORAL PRAYER

NEW TESTAMENT READING *Matthew 6:1-21*

## HOMILY

*Contrition*

Rev. Zeke Allen

## ANTHEM

*Treasures in Heaven*

-by K. Lee Scott

Chancel Choir

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

LEADER: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

***CONGREGATION: Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.***

LEADER: Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

***CONGREGATION: Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.***

LEADER: Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

***CONGREGATION: Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.***

LEADER: Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.