Rectortown United Methodist Church

February 14th, 2024 6:30pm.

*Ash Wednesday*



***Pastor****: Jonathan Lamb*

*3049 Rectortown Road, Marshall, VA* 20115

*Pastor’s Cell Phone:* (540) 742-1535
*Pastor’s E-mail:* jonathanlamb@vaumc.org

***Music Director****:* Karen Chase

***Ministers****: every member of the congregation*

Welcome to Rectortown UMC!

*No matter where you have been or where you have failed to be – what you have said or what you have failed to say - what you have done or what you have failed to do - whom you have loved or whom you have failed to love - you are welcome here.*

**\*** *Please Stand As You Are Able and Comfortable*

**PRELUDE** - let us quiet our minds, hearts, and spirits as we begin to focus on the presence of God as we become aware of the *Light of Christ* in our midst.

***ENTRANCE***

**GREETING**

*Leader:* The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Leader:* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People:* **God’s mercy endures for ever.**

**OPENING PRAYER** UMH 353

**O God,**

**Maker of every thing and judge of all that you have made,**

**From dust of the earth you have formed us**

**And from the dust of death you would raise us up.**

**By the redemptive power of the cross,**

**Create in us clean hearts**

**And put within us a new spirit,**

**That we may repent of our sins**

**And lead lives worthy of your calling;**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

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

UMH 269

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

**RESPONSIVE READING**

Psalm 51:1-17 (UMH 785-786)

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

**HYMN** “I Surrender All” UMH 354

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**SERMON** “Be Reconciled to God”

**INVITATION TO OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE**

*Adapted from the United Methodist Book of Worship*

Dear sisters and brothers 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 be 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 bow before our Creator and Redeemer.

**THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES**

*Adapted from the United Methodist Book of Worship*

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.

*All:* **Amen.**

**IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

**CONFESSION AND PARDON**

Let us confess our sin against God and our neighbors.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,**

**By what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; That we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,**

**To the glory of your name. Amen.**

*(Moment of Silence)*

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.

**THE PEACE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (Book of Common Prayer 124)

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,**

**we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks**

**for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.**

**We bless you for our creation, preservation,**

**and all the blessings of this life;**

**but above all for your immeasurable love**

**in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;**

**for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**

**And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service,**

**and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,**

**be honor and glory throughout all ages.**

**Amen.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** UMH 895

**HYMN** “Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior” UMH 351

**DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

**GOING FORTH**

\* *Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

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| ***This worship service has ended, and now your service begins.******As you leave church today, you are entering the mission field.*** |

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**President’s Day**

February 19th, Offices Closed

**Rectortown United Methodist Church**

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