

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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*We Worship, We Love, We Serve
– No Matter What!*

**Ash Wednesday
February 14, 2024
7:00pm**

We Worship

*** Those who are comfortably able, please stand**

Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton! We are a place where love can grow!

*As the music begins, please find your place and
begin to center your spirit for our worship of God together.*

Music to Prepare our Hearts for Worship

What Wondrous Love Is This

Soloist: Rev. Todd Fennell

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

***Greeting and Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

***Call to Worship**

Written by Rev. Thom Shuman

Liturgist: Regina Mohr

One: Here, at the outer limits of Lent,

All: We are called to walk: to the edges which cut us to the soul; to the workplaces which weary us; to the people who confuse us; to the faith which threatens us.

One: Here, at the corner of Steadfast Love and Faithfulness,

All: We are called to wait: when our clenched stomachs awaken us; in the moments of unbearable sorrow; with the angels who would carry us.

One: Here, where time is fulfilled, where God's Kingdom is as near to us as our neighbor, we begin Lent:

All: With the beloved, whose tears wash away our fears, with the God who will not let go of our hands.

***Opening Hymn**

Have Mercy, Lord

Verses 1, 2, and 4

found on pages 2 and 3 of the bulletin

Have Mercy, Lord

1. Have mer - cy, Lord, ac - cord - ing to the
 2. The fail - ings of my deeds and thoughts are
 3. In - to my se - cret heart send truth, let
 4. A clean and up - right heart, O Lord, ex -
 5. A con - trite heart is your de - sire, my

mea - sure of your love; blot
 ev - er in my sight; re -
 wis - dom in me grow; O
 change for mine of stone; Your
 of - fer - ing, the same; my

WORDS: Michael Morgan (1948-), alt.
 MUSIC: American folk melody,
 arr. Hal H. Hopson (1933-)

LAND OF REST
 C.M.

Words © 1999 Michael Morgan
 Music Arr. © 2000 Hope Publishing Company

out my sin, and from my heart all
 lease me from the path of death, and
 wash the e vil from my hands, and
 Ho - ly Spir - it it meld with mine, and
 lips un - latch, my mouth with en - gage your

sin and guilt re - move.
 set my course a - right.
 make me pure as snow.
 leave me not a - lone.
 prais - es to pro - claim.

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Regina Mohr

One: We bring our burdens and our sins to You, O Christ, who bears the heavy load for us. We place upon You our excuses, our shortcomings, our anger and our desire, knowing that You can remove these sins from us and restore us to life. We confess that we have not loved You fully and have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.

All: Forgive us of our sins. Help us to turn back to You. Restore what has been broken and find what has been lost, so we may be the living, loving image of You in creation. In Your precious name we pray.

One: When we pause to look on our lives this Ash Wednesday, we realize that we have been weighed in the balance and found wanting. We have neglected to do good when it was in our power to do so.

All: We, like believers past, have turned our backs on the poor, choosing instead to criminalize poverty. We have ignored the motherless, the fatherless, the widow and the widower choosing instead to turn children and the elderly into the new poor. God in your mercy, forgive us. Amen

(Time for Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Liturgist: Regina Mohr

One: Hear the Good News. The Lord, our God, is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love (*Joel 2:13*).

All: God hears the earnest cries of the repentant and forgives our sins. Thanks be to God. Amen

Hymn

Sunday's Palms are Wednesday's Ashes

Verses 1 and 2

found on page 5 of the bulletin

***Scripture Reading**

Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Scripture Reader: Linda Powell

One: The word of God for the people of God.

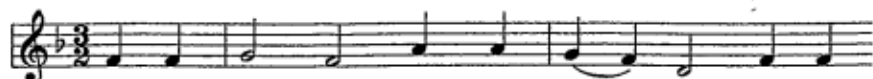
All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sermon

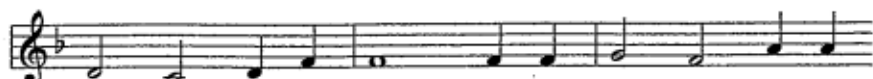
Rev. Steven Davis

**God Did this for You!
Introduction to Lent**

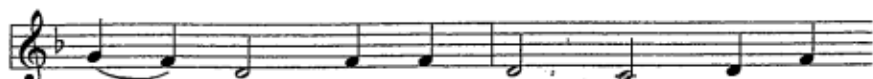
Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes



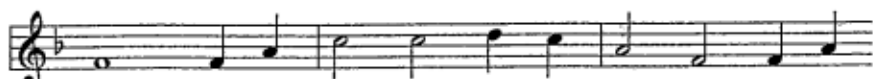
1. *Sun-day's palms are Wednes-day's ash - es as an -
2. We have failed to love our neigh - bors, their of -
3. We are hast - y to judge oth - ers, blind to



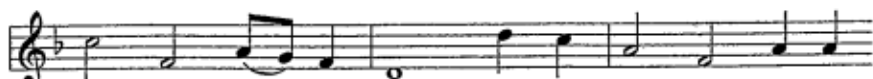
oth - er Lent be - gins; thus we kneel be - fore our
fenc - es to for - give, have not lis - tened to their
proof of hu - man need; and our lack of un - der -



Mak - er in con - tri - tion for our
trou - bles, nor have cared just how they
stand - ing dem - on - strates our in - ner



sins. We have marred bap - tis - mal pledg - es, in re -
live, we are jeal - ous, proud, im - pa - tient, lov - ing
greed; we have wast - ed earth's re - sourc - es; want and



bel - lion gone a - stray; now, re - turn - ing, seek for -
o - ver - much our things; may the yield - ing of our
suf - fer - ing we've ig - nored; come and cleanse us, then re -



give - ness; grant us par - don, God, this day!
fail - ings be our Len - ten of - fer - ings.
store us; make new hearts with - in us, Lord!

**The first line of the hymn recalls the custom of burning remaining palm leaves of the previous year to form the ashes for this observance.*

WORDS: Rae E. Whitney
MUSIC: Attr. to B. F. White

BEACH SPRING
87.87 D

Words © 1991 Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

Anthem

Father of All (A Hymn for Lent)
Bernard Sexton

Invitation to Lent

Rev. Davis

One: Loving Lord, as we begin this Lenten season, we are met with the challenge of handing over every bit of our lives that do not come from You. To rid ourselves of what clutters our lives, and all that distracts us from the simple truth of Your love for us. Your prophets have called us to change the way we worship — to make internal sacrifices instead of external ones. To seek justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with You each and every one of our days.

All: **Lead and guide us on this Lenten way. May we walk with Jesus and take up our cross and follow, spending each moment of our lives living responsively to You, just as Christ Himself did. For that is the faithful way. Amen**

Thanksgiving Over the Ashes

Rev. Todd Fennell

One: Loving 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 repentance. May we remember that only by your gracious gifts are we given everlasting life.

All: **Forgive us, Loving God, for turning sackcloth and ashes into fashion statements by pursuing form without substance. As we begin this journey in these 40 days, make us truly thankful. Wash us, O God, and we shall be clean. Cleanse us, O Lord, and we shall be made whole in your love. Amen**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Rev. Davis

Please sign the communion book in the back of the church if you have not done so at a service of communion in 2024.

We Are an Inclusive Community!

In the United Church of Christ, we observe an “Open Communion.” ALL persons are welcome to receive the gifts of God’s grace and love with us at the table.

In The UCC, ALL means ALL!

The Invitation to Receive

Rev. Davis

One: We believe in an inviting God who invites the poor and sick, the outcast and the lonely, the immigrant and the refugee, the awkward and the abrasive, the young and the innocent.

All: **We believe God invites the best and the worst — in all of us.**

One: We believe God invites us to: a life of faith, a crowded table, a messy church, a deeper truth, a resilient joy, a place to belong, a family among strangers, a world that is just, and a love that knows no bounds.

All: **We believe this invitation exists for all people. We believe this invitation exists for us. When we miss the call or ignore the invitation, we believe that God invites us again. Thanks be to God for that welcoming Spirit.**

Words of Institution and Consecration

Imposition of Ashes and Receiving Holy Communion

Rev. Davis and Rev. Fennell – Ashes
Consistory leaders – Holy Communion stations

*Please come forward by the center aisle
to receive the ashes and communion,
then return to your seat by way of the side aisles.*

*For those with mobility issues,
the ashes and elements for communion
will be brought to you.*

Music During Communion

Patrick Sandt

Prayer of Thanksgiving After Receiving

Rev. Fennell

All: We have come to the table tonight remembering our frailty with the dust on our heads, we also gave our thanks for this meal. In these next forty days and as we walk the road to the crucifixion, continue to keep us awake to the ways we can bring Jesus the Christ's servant-leadership to our world. We ask this in your most holy name. Amen

We Love

Offering Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings to God



Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness in supporting the ministry of St. John's UCC!

***Doxology**

A Lenten Doxology

Published by The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, PO Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003

**Praise God throughout these forty days.
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God's Love in Christ into our Hearts. Amen**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Liturgist: Regina Mohr

All: Holy God, as we start the journey of Lent give us a will of repentance, a mind of sacrificial love, and a heart of gratitude. Indeed, you are "gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love..." We offer our gifts and our whole selves, asking that you might strengthen us for the journey, in the name of Christ, our rock and our redeemer. Amen

We Serve

*Hymn

Just As I Am
Verses 1, 3, and 4

found on page 10 of the bulletin

*The Benediction

Rev. Davis

Postlude

Patrick Sandt

*When the altar candles have been extinguished, our time of worship
is concluded and our service in the world continues.*

*The Benediction and Postlude send us out
to be the people of God in our community.*

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Serving in Worship Leadership

February 14

Ushers – Michelle Gutekunst, Kathy Roth, Dewey Yeatts, DonnaLee Yeatts

Liturgist – Regina Mohr

Scripture Reader – Linda Powell

Serving in Worship Leadership

Sunday, February 18

Ushers – Staci Pagan and Sophia Pagan

Liturgist – Nancy Bowman

Scripture Reader – Zach Szoke

Church Calendar

Thurs 2/15	6:30 pm	Zumba
	7:00 pm	Choir
Sun, 2/18	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation

Just As I Am

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1 Just as I am, with - out one plea
 2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout
 4 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive,

but that thy blood was shed for me,
 to rid my soul of one dark blot,
 with man - y a con - flict, man - y a doubt,
 wilt wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve;

and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
 to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
 fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,

O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

WORDS: Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871)
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury (1816-1868)

WOODWORTH
 L.M.

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