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**Crescentville United Methodist Church**

**A Changing Church for Changing Times**

**Pastor Brendan Van Gorder**

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“By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground,

since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

Genesis 3:19 NIV

*The saying ashes to ashes, dust to dust is a powerful reminder that God created us from dust, and that due to sin, our physical bodies will all eventually return to dust.*

*We need to take our eyes off the things of this world and instead focus on eternity.*

*Our physical bodies will return to dust, but our spiritual being will return to God,*

*to stand before Him in judgment . Through faith in Jesus Christ, that day can be a glorious one,*

*rather than something to be feared.*

**Ash Wednesday February 14, 2024**

**Welcome**

*(from The United Methodist Book of Worship)—Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word lencten, which means “spring.” The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. The First Sunday describes Jesus’ temptation by Satan; and the Sixth Sunday (Passion Palm Sunday), Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem and His subsequent passion and death. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection.*

**\*Opening Hymn** *“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”*

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.

As Thou didst hunger, bear, and thirst, so teach us gracious Lord,

to die to self, and chiefly live by Thy most holy Word.

**Call to Confession** *Joel 2:12-17*

**Prayer of Confession** (seated, head bowed)

**Jesus, we confess that we fall short. Lord, have mercy on us. Help us to be more open to what you want to do in our lives. Lord we don’t always treat the people we cross paths with as if they are your own children. Jesus, forgive us. Lord, we get comfortable and used to how things are, and we forget or choose not to remember that you have put in us the power to change things with your Spirit. Forgive us for doing nothing Jesus. Forgive us for our lack of faith. Sometimes we despair and we limit you. Jesus, forgive us. You know that we love you and that we want to be like you. So help us. Help us with how we should live. Help us with our emotions. Help us with our energy. We ask that you would remake us, into a better instrument for your Spirit. Thank you Jesus. Amen.**

**Hymn** *“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”*

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died,

my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

See from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.

Did e’er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

**Declaration of Pardon** *2 Corinthians 5:17-21*

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sinfor us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

 **Hymn** *“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”*

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small;

 love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

**Hearing God’s Word** *Isaiah 58:1-12*

**Meditation** *“We Fast with Our Actions”*

**\*Invitation to Receive Ashes *Imposition of Ashes***

*Worship Song “Take These Ashes”*

 **Service of Holy Communion**

The Lord be with you………………………...**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts……………………..**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God……...**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

 **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD, GOD OF POWER AND MIGHT,**

 **HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY,**

 **HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST. BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES**

 **IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST.**

...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

 **CHRIST HAS DIED; CHRIST IS RISEN, CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN.**

...Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

***Singing of the Lord’s Prayer -*** *Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen*

*BREAKING THE BREAD……..…….GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP*

**Chorus**  *“Let Us Break Bread Together”*

Let us break bread together on our knees (repeat)

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees (repeat)

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees (repeat)

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

# **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Jesus, thank you for coming to be with us. You know that we keep messing up and falling short, and still you believe in us. Thank you. Help us to thrive off the energy of your sacrifice and your love for us. Let it carry us through the highs and the lows. Jesus, thank you for choosing us, even when we don’t deserve it. In your name we pray. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn** *“This Is a Day of New Beginnings”*

 This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on, time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.

 For by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty Spirit, now as then, can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.

**\*Sending Out**

*We welcome you to tonight’s Ash Wednesday service and pray that your time here tonight will bless you as you begin this season of Lent in preparation to celebrate Christ’s resurrection at Easter. In addition to personal time of study, prayer, and devotion, you are encouraged to join in our Bible Study and Lenten Vespers.*

*Please Join Crescentville United Methodist Church as we "Struggle to the Cross". We will be meeting every Tuesday night on zoom from 7:30-8:30pm to discuss a selection from the book by UMC Bishop Sharma Lewis "Struggle to the Cross". You can show up on zoom without a book and we will read and discuss a passage together. If you'd prefer to purchase a book you can do so and follow along and make it a daily practice. This is going to be a journey where we really get to know each other, our inside selves, and God. All ages are welcome! The study will be recorded and posted later.*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89024380576?pwd=U2ZYeUVsTFlYVzYrK28vbWdwSlp5Zz09>

 Meeting ID: 890 2438 0576 Passcode: 274135

*Link and dial in by phone number are on our website* [*https://www.crescentvilleumc.com/*](https://www.crescentvilleumc.com/)*.*

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*On Wednesday Evenings you are invited to attend Lenten Vesper Services at The Philadelphia Protestant Home. (6401 Martins Mill Road )*

*The services will be at 6:30 PM. Please enter through the chapel doors.*

*Pastor Randy and Sue Creevey will be participating in these services.*

*The services will be recorded and posted later.*