

***Crescentville United Methodist Church***

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**Ash Wednesday February 22, 2023**

**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 did fast and pray,

teach us with You to mourn our sins and close by You to stay.

As You did hunger, bear, and thirst, so teach us gracious Lord,

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

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

**Prayer of Confession**

**All-knowing God, we confess to You what we know of ourselves, that we are not the people we want others to think we are. We are afraid to admit, even to ourselves, what lies in the depths of our souls. But we cannot hide our true selves from You. You know us as we are, and yet You still love us. Give us the courage to admit our failures and limitations and, in doing so, place our trust in You. Raise us out of the paralysis of guilt into the freedom and energy of forgiven people. And for us who find Your grace and forgiveness hard to accept, we ask that You break our bondage and set us free; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Redeemer. 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*

**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** *St. Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

**Meditation** *“Remember…”*

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

*THE LORD'S PRAYER****--****Our Father, who 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 trespasses and debts*

*as we forgive our debtors and those who trespass**against us.*

*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**

**Almighty God, You have given Your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of how to live: give us grace that we may always thankfully receive these gifts from You, and also strive to follow the blessed steps of Christ’s most holy life; in whose 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 together for Lenten vespers worship at The Philadelphia Protestant Home (6401 Martins Mill Road) at 6:30 PM each Wednesday during Lent. After worship video of these services will be posted on YouTube, Facebook, and our website.*