

Ash Wednesday
Southminster Presbyterian Church



February 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

PREPARATION

Ashes: If you picked up a small cup of ashes at the church, set it out on a table near you. If you did not, you could either gather a little ash from your fireplace or simply put some olive oil in a small container and use the oil in place of ashes.

Renewal of Baptismal Vows: Set out a bowl of water and a small towel.

Communion: Please have a cup of juice and a piece of any kind of bread for each person worshiping in your home.

WELCOME

Rev. Laura Nile Tuell

CALL TO WORSHIP

Marj Lawson

One: We are invited—

All: into the story and into this hour of worship.

One: We are invited—

All: into reflection, into community, into our own spiritual journeys.

One: We are invited—

**All: the broken and bruised, the hopeful, the new, the faithful,
the doubting, the wondering, the waiting.**

One: We are invited—

All: because God loves us;

One: so listen, trust the invitation, and bring your whole self.

All: All are invited into the presence of God.

HYMN # 701

“Lord, Prepare Me”

sing twice

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc-tu - ar - y, pure and
 ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing,
 I'll be a liv - ing sanc-tu - ar - y for you.

G Em7 D A A7 D
 A G A7 D

SCRIPTURE

Joel 2: 12-13
 Isaiah 58:1-12

Rev. Laura Nile Tuell

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Marj Lawson and Cari Sullivan

The soloist will sing the refrain twice as we begin. Please sing it with her the second time. Then, sing the refrain as your response during the prayer.

David Clark Isele

The sac - ri - fice you ac - cept, O God,
 is a hum - ble spir - it.

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One: Holy God, we know that you are near, here among us, just a breath away. Yet, despite knowing your nearness, we still stumble over ourselves, unsure of how to pray.

All: (Sing Refrain)

One: There are times when we talk to you like a stranger, praying prayers of small talk about our surface level concerns. We keep genuine fear and doubt tucked into corners, out of sight, out of mind.

All: (Sing Refrain)

One: Often, we try to think our way to you, as if we could use logic or our minds alone to explain you. We forget what we knew as children; we forget how to feel our way to you.

All: (Sing Refrain)

One: Sometimes, we limit our experience of you to one hour a Sunday, missing your constant invitation into the holiness all around us. Forgive us. Guide us. We are here, God. We want to begin again.

All: (Sing Refrain)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Marj Lawson

One: Friends, whether you are standing at the door of a deeper faith journey, unsure of what comes next, or running your way through that threshold, you are claimed, forgiven, and loved by God.

All: Again and again, we are forgiven, and we are invited to new life.

One: Thanks be to God for such amazing love. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:1-7, 16-21

Marj Lawson

MEDITATION

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

PRAYER

Rev. Laura Nile Tuell

HYMN # 166

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

verses 1 and 2



THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

RECEIVING OF ASHES

Rev. Laura Nile Tuell

Take a moment to impose the ashes on your forehead or the back of your hand. If you are worshipping with others in your household, you may impose ashes on one another. When you make the sign of the cross, you can say any of the following:

Ashes to ashes and dust to dust.

Remember that from ashes you have come and to ashes you will return.

Turn from sin and be at peace.

You are forgiven and loved as God’s own child.



REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

INTRODUCTION

Rev. Laura Nile Tuell

Place your hands in the bowl of water in front of you. Lift your hands out of the water and listen to the sound it makes. Take a moment to remember baptisms that you have witnessed in the past. As you feel the water on your hands, say aloud:

I am God's child and God calls me, "Beloved."

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

One: Do you confess your faith in Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

All: I do.

One: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and sharing his love?

All: I will, with God's help.

One: Let us profess our faith:

All: In life and death we belong to God. We trust in one God, the Holy One, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ. Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain, and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the powers of sin and evil, delivering us from death to eternal life.

We trust in the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The spirit justifies us by grace through faith, and sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor. In gratitude to God, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks, and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come Lord Jesus!

(Adapted from A Brief Confession of Faith)

ANTHEM

"Give Me Jesus"
Dorian Arnold, soloist

arr. Moses Hogan

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Rev. Laura Nile Tuell



HOLY COMMUNION

The bread and the cup symbolize our unity as the Body of Christ in this sacrament.

After the words, "The Body of Christ, given for you," are spoken, serve yourself or a family member, saying the same words. After the words, "The Cup of the New Covenant, given for you," are spoken, do the same.

CALL TO COMMUNION

Hymn # 494, verses 1,2, and 5
“Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts”

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S SUPPER

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Josh Sweeney

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

LORD’S PRAYER

Josh Sweeney

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 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.

HYMN # 166

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

verses 3 and 4

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

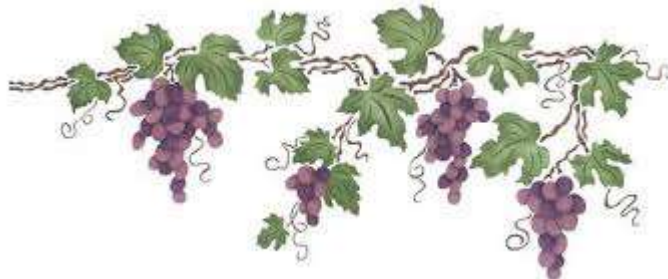
Josh Sweeney

RESPONSE TO BENEDICTION

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Hymn 223, verse 4

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small:
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**



* The *Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness* in this service were adapted from a liturgical resource written by Rev. Sarah Are. They are a part of the 2021 Lenten *Sanctified Art* resource, “Again and Again.”