

ASH WEDNESDAY

♪ **Prelude** · Toni DiCapua

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley ... Albert Zabel

Call to Worship (responsively) · Lou Pennebaker

Leader: "Even now, declares the Lord, return to me with all Your heart." (Joel 2:12)

People: Roll up your sleeves.

Leader: Let down your guard.

People: Come in from the storm.

Leader: Make yourself at home. Pull up to the table. Release the tension in your jaw. Take a deep breath. Return to God with all your heart.

People: May it be so.

* ♪ **Hymn of Praise** · Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days
No. 81

Prayer of Confession + Words of Assurance (responsively)

Leader: Holy God, I confess: I don't return to You fully.
I share with You the pieces of my life that are convenient.
I put on different hats in different rooms. I forget that I am called, invited, and loved with all that I am—including my mess, my beauty, my faith, and my doubt. Forgive me, and give me a heart that longs to return.

**People: Friend, God sees you. God hears you. God loves you.
You are forgiven and claimed with all that you are.
Rest in that good news.**

Leader: Thanks be to God, amen.

**People: Holy God, we confess: we don't return to You fully.
We share with You the pieces of our lives that are convenient. We put on different hats in different rooms. We forget that we are called, invited, and loved with all that we are— including our mess, our beauty, our faith, and our doubt. Forgive us, and give us hearts that long to return.**

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Prayer of Confession + Words of Assurance... continued

Leader: Friends, God sees you. God hears you. God loves you.
You are forgiven and claimed with all that you are.
Rest in that good news.

People: Thanks be to God, amen.

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading · Lou Pennebaker

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 (pg. 1414)

♪ **Anthem** · Chancel Choir

Create in Me A Clean Heart, O God (Ps. 51:10-13) ... Carl F. Mueller
Richard Dinwiddie, director; Mollie Wakeman, accompanist
(CCLI #20405356)

Scripture Reading

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (pg. 1503)

Reflection · The Rev. Renée Rico

Poem · "On My Way"

By the Rev. Sarah Speed

* ♪ **Hymn** · Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley
No. 80

Imposition of the Ashes

Invitation

Prayer: Almighty God,

You have created us out of the dust of the earth.

May these ashes be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so we may remember that by Your gracious gift are we given eternal life. Amen.

You are invited forward at the time indicated by the ushers for the imposition of ashes.

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Instrumental Music

Prayers of Petition and Intercession

When the leader says: In your steadfast love, O Lord,
The people respond: **have mercy on us.**

* 🎵 **Closing Hymn** · Abide With Me (vs 1, 3 and 4)
No. 543

* **Benediction**

🎵 **Postlude** · Toni DiCapua

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days ... Gregory Hamilton



Welcome to the Worship of God

We trust that God will fill your life with the love, joy and peace that come from knowing Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Ushers

Sue Robertson and Susan Sprague

Church Staff

Rev. Renée Rico	Transitional Pastor
Lou Pennebaker	Director of Christian Education
Richard Dinwiddie	Director of Music
Toni DiCapua, Bobbi Hunter, Mary Mackie	Organists
Mollie Wakeman	Accompanist
Emely Wendell	Administrative Manager
Rich Meadowcroft	Custodian



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