



Jarrettown United Methodist Church
A SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR ASH WEDNESDAY
February 18, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

Prelude - Adagio from Organ Symphony No. 5

Charles-Marie Widor

✠Call to Worship

Leader: Earth to earth,

People: **Ashes to ashes,**

Leader: From dust we were created,

People: **And to dust we shall return.**

Leader: From the dust and ashes of our lives,

People: **Create again, O Lord.**

Leader: Create in us clean hearts, O God,

People: **And renew a right spirit within us.**

✠Song - “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” (UMH #269)

✠Opening Prayer (unison)

O God, maker of everything and judge of all that you have made, from the dust of the earth you have formed us and from the dust of death you would raise us up. By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit, that we may repent of our sins and lead lives worthy of your calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: the early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord’s passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation.

During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church.

In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent:
by self-examination and repentance;
by prayer, fasting, and self-denial;
and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

Choir – Lord, Be With Us on This Day

Jay Althouse

Old Testament Reading – Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming.

It is close at hand—2 a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness. Like dawn spreading across the mountains a large and mighty army comes, such as never was in ancient times nor ever will be in ages to come.

Gospel Lesson - Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁵“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

¹⁶“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your

Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Message – “Treasurers of the Heart”

Song – “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” (297)

Thanksgiving Over the Ashes

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Almighty 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 need to repent, so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Imposition of Ashes (Please come forward row by row - coming up the center aisle and returning by the sides.)

Confession and Pardon – Psalm 51:1-10

May the Almighty and merciful God, who desires not the death of a sinner but that we turn from wickedness and live, accept our repentance, forgive our sins, and restore us by the Holy Spirit to newness of life. Amen.

Moment for Silent Confession

Lord’s Prayer

The Sacrament of Communion

Gift of Finest Wheat

Becky Conrad, alto

✠**Song** - “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” (452)

✠Dismissal and Blessing

Leader: Go forth into the world in the strength of God's mercy to live and serve in newness of life.

People: We are sent in Christ's name.

Leader: May the Lamb of God who laid down his life for all, graciously smile upon us, and keep us always in His care.

People: Amen.

✠Sending Forth - Pastorale

Michael Pogudin

We welcome Rev. Lorelei Toombs as our worship leader this evening. Lorelei serves as the Director of Lay Leadership Development for the Greater New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania annual conferences.

Assisting with tonight's service are Derek Mancke, Director of Youth; Nolan Prochnau, Director of Music; JUMC Tech Team.



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