

COVENANT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Ash Wednesday Worship Service

PRELUDE

SONG OF PREPARATION *All Who Are Thirsty* Brown & Robertson
*Chorus: Come, Lord Jesus, come - Come, Lord Jesus, come
Holy Spirit, come - Holy Spirit, come*

*All who are thirsty, all who are weak, come to the fountain.
Dip your heart in the stream of life.
Let the pain and the sorrow - be washed away - in the waves of His mercy
As deep cries out to deep. (chorus)*

PSALM 51 808

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION *St. Ambrose of Milan (AD 339-397)*
**O Lord, who hast mercy upon all, take away from me my sins,
and mercifully kindle in me the fire of thy Holy Spirit.
Take away from me the heart of stone, and give me a heart of flesh,
a heart to love and adore Thee, a heart to delight in Thee,
to follow and enjoy Thee, for Christ's sake. Amen.**

SONG OF REFLECTION *You Search Me Lord* Carlson, Stromberg & Donley
*You search me, Lord, and know my heart, when I lay down and when I rise,
And I can tell You know me well; You see me here with holy eyes.
Before a word is on my tongue, You've heard my heart, my ev'ry prayer.
I can't conceal the things I feel. In ev'ry thought I know You're there.
It is too wonderful and deep, too high to ever comprehend:
The hands that hold the stars in space reached down and gently touched my face.
If I could rise on wings of dawn or fly beyond the farthest sea,
Lord, even there, or anywhere, Your patient love will cover me.
For You created all I am, before my birth You knew my name.
And what You made, You made so well. Lord, in my praises come and dwell.
So search me Lord, and know my heart, and guide me thru these anxious days.
And if there be offense in me, show me Your everlasting ways.*

PSALM 139 853

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION *New Saint Joseph People's Prayer Book*
**Merciful Father, I am guilty of sin. I confess my sins before you and I am
sorry for them. Your promises are just; therefore I trust that you will forgive
my sins and cleanse me from every stain of sin. Jesus himself is the
propitiation for my sins and the sin of the whole world. I put my hope
in his atonement. May my sins be forgiven through His name and in His
blood may my soul be made clean. Amen.**

IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES
Please come forward through the center aisle, returning to your seats by the side aisles

SONG OF ASSURANCE *As the East Is from the West* 356

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

HYMN *Lord, You Have Promised* Lindholtz
*Lord, You have promised beauty for ashes
Freedom for captives, sight for the blind
Lord, You have promised comfort for mourning
Hope for the hearts of all humankind
Lord, You have promised gladness for grieving
And for the broken, words that bring peace
Bread for the hungry, help to the homeless
And to the captive, words of release
Lord, You provided grace and forgiveness
When on the cross You showed us Your love
Bringing us pardon through Your affliction
Making a way to raise us above
As we await the promised fulfillment
Lord, we delight in Your loving grace'
For You have clothed us in Your salvation
And we will see You face to face*

DISMISSAL PRAYER
**Father in Heaven, we pray for the grace to keep Lent faithfully.
Protect us in our struggles against sin.
As we begin the discipline of Lent, make this season holy to us.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

ASH WEDNESDAY AND THE LENTEN SEASON

This evening, all are invited to enter into a holy observation of Lent. Throughout this season, we are called to honestly examine our lives, to be sincerely sorry for our sins, and to wholeheartedly recommit ourselves to God's purpose and direction. Christians have consistently found over the centuries, that prayer, fasting, gifts, and actions of service for others, along with reading and meditating on the Word of God, powerfully nourish our spiritual lives. Tonight, as we begin this season, each of us is challenged to make a commitment to these practices, and to choose one in particular on which to focus, as we seek to grow in Christ, and to prepare to encounter him anew in the events of Holy Week.



*a place to belong...
a place to believe...
a place to become...*

Rev. Johnny Agurkis, Pastor
Kirstie Wheeler, Director of Music Ministries
Nancy Hall, Church Secretary
Heather Raduazzo, Pianist
Susan Santry, Organist

CCLI #982653



*Restore unto me the joy of Your
salvation...and renew a right spirit
within me.
-from Psalm 51*