

# Trinity United Methodist Church

## Ash Wednesday Service 7 p.m.

### PRELUDE

### GREETING

Senior Pastor: Rev. Kelly Karges Associate Pastor: Anny Kapundu Organist: Kim Wilsey Volunteers this service: The Confirmands
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### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

**L:** The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

**L:** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**P: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits.**

**L:** Who forgives all your sins, and heals all your infirmities.

**P: Who redeems your life from the grave, and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness.**

### OPENING PRAYER

(Unison)

**O God, maker of everything and judge of all that you have made, from the dust of the earth you 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.**

**\*HYMN #382 "Have Thine Own Way, Lord"**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON:** Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

**GOSPEL LESSON:** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### BURNING OF SINS AND REGRETS

### INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

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 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 is 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. To make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel (bow) before our Creator and Redeemer.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE – Joys & Concerns**

One: For this we pray.... All: **"Lord, hear our prayers."**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

## **CONFESSION AND PARDON**

(Unison)

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for loyal obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

May the almighty and merciful God, who desired not the death of a sinner but that we turn from wickedness and live, accept your repentance, forgive your sins and restore you by the Holy Spirit to newness of life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\*PASSING THE PEACE** *Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.*

## **Offertory**

**\*DOXOLOGY #94** “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

## **THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES**

(Unison)

**Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that this dust may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Imposition of the ASHES

**\*HYMN #357** “Just As I Am, Without One Plea”

## **DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

Go forth into the world in the strength of God’s mercy to live and to serve in newness of life. May Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven, bless and keep you.

**Amen.**

May the Lamb of God who laid down his life for all graciously smile upon you.

**Amen.**

May the Lord God order all your days and deeds in peace.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**