

**The hollowness that saps my strength
and leaves me lifeless,
I lay before you.**

All that we are, all that we have done,
all that we confess, we lay before you, O God.

**Relieve the weight of the burden
I lay before you.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Joel reminds us that God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
With great mercy, God relents from punishing
and calls us into fullness of life.

In God's grace, know that you are forgiven.

In God's grace, know that you are forgiven.

In God's mercy, know that you are made new.

In God's mercy, know that you are made new.

In God's love, know that you are made whole.

In God's love, know that you are made whole.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SCRIPTURE 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

SERMON "Changes"

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER OVER THE ASHES

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

* HYMN "Take My Life, and Let It Be" UMH No. 399

* THE TAKING OF THE LIGHT

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE



Ash Wednesday Service

The First United Methodist Church
Reynoldsville, Pennsylvania
Rev. Thomas D. Carr, Pastor
Rev. Leo Cramer, Pastor Emeritus



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February 26, 2020

Purple

Ash Wednesday

PRELUDE

* CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come, young and old...Sanctify yourselves before the Lord.

P: We gather to hear the word of God.

L: Come, and do not delay...Return to God.

P: We gather to be in the presence of God.

L: Come, cry out to God...Trust in God's mercy.

P: We gather to renew our spirits, as we acknowledge our failings before God

* HYMN OF PRAISE "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" UMH No. 269

OPENING PRAYER

We turn to you, God of life, on this first day of Lent, as we recall our own mortality. With hearts torn open by our actions, we need your guidance and your healing forgiveness. Ready us to receive your mercy and grace, and cleanse us of the ash of human failing, that we may embrace the Word you speak in Christ Jesus – the Word that leads to eternal life. Amen.

* PRAYER HYMN "Just as I Am, Without One Plea" UMH No. 357

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In preparation, present yourselves before God.

Come in your brokenness,
acknowledging where you have fallen short
of God's expectations and of your own.

(Time of silent reflection.)

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love.

**The brokenness that hinders me,
I lay before you.**

Come in your pain, acknowledging your hurt
and accepting how you have hurt others.

(Time of silent reflection.)

Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

**All the pain I have in my life—
the pain I have caused and the pain I feel—
I lay before you.**

Come in your weakness,
acknowledging your lack of confidence
to do what is right.

(Time of silent reflection.)

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love.

**The weakness that holds me captive,
I lay before you.**

Come in your fear,
acknowledging your failure to seek justice.

(Time of silent reflection.)

Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

**The fear that binds me,
I lay before you.**

Come in your hesitancy,
acknowledging your resistance to God's call.

(Time of silent reflection.)

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love.

**My hesitancy in doing your will,
I lay before you.**

Come in your failings,
acknowledging what you have done and left undone.

(Time of silent reflection.)

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.