

PRELUDE..... *You Are My Hiding Place*

Enter and begin with Silent Prayer

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

“Return to me!”

Christ calls, and we hear.

“Return to me!”

Christ calls, and we listen.

“Return to me!”

Christ calls, and we respond.

“Return to me!”

Christ calls, and we turn . . . toward life, toward love, toward God.

OPENING PRAYER

With open hearts, merciful God, we desire to live in your grace. Speak to us with wisdom and mercy, with patience and perseverance, that we may hear your call and mend our ways. As we embark on this Lenten journey, walk with us and teach us your love, that we might be signs of your grace. With joyous hope, we pray. Amen.

Amazing Grace.....UMH #378

***MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21**

“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. “So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your

fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

**Change My Heart, O God*.....FWS #2152

LIVING IN FAITH EVERYDAY....."Real Life".....Rev. Megan A. Dean

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

CONFESSION

O holy and merciful God, we confess that we have not always taken upon ourselves the yoke of obedience, nor been willing to seek and to do your perfect will. We have not loved you with all our heart and mind and soul and strength, neither have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. You have called to us in the needs of our sisters and brothers, and we have passed unheeding on our way. In the pride of our hearts, and our unwillingness to repent, we have turned away from the cross of Christ and have grieved your Holy Spirit.

All offer prayers in silence.

PARDON

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

Offertory.....*God So Loved the World*

†Doxology.....#95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, we have sought recognition for our piety, and taken pride in our

giving. Receive these offerings in the spirit of your Son, who taught us to watch our hearts— for where our hearts are, there our treasure will be also. May our treasure be in you, Holy One, and in the welfare of our world. Amen.

*Lord, I Want to be a Christian.....UMH #402

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

***POSTLUDE**

Worship Resources used: *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2017* and *The United Methodist Book of Worship*.



Ash Wednesday
March 1, 2017

