



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Wednesday, February 17th, 2021*

Lent & Ash Wednesday

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word: lenoten, which means "spring." The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. The First Sunday describes Jesus's temptation by Satan; and the Sixth Sunday (Palm Sunday), Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent passion and death. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter: we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith. The form and content of the service focus on the dual themes of sin and death in the light of God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ.

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Ash Wednesday, February 17th

7:00 P.M. Livestream link: <https://youtu.be/QzSWGXIea7Y>

PRELUDE

Wondrous Love arr. Wilbur Held

GREETING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

God's mercy endures forever.

HYMN #269

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

OPENING PRAYER

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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

- 2:1 Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near-
- 2:2 a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.
- 2:12 Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
- 2:13 rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

- 2:14 Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God?
- 2:15 Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly;
- 2:16 gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.
- 2:17 Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

Psalm 51:1-17 (Please read the text in bold)

- 51:1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
- 51:2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**
- 51:3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
- 51:4 Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.**
- 51:5 Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- 51:6 You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
- 51:7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**
- 51:8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
- 51:9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.**
- 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.
- 51:11 Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.**
- 51:12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.
- 51:13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.**
- 51:14 Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.
- 51:15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.**
- 51:16 For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
- 51:17 The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

- 5:20b We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.
- 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
- 6:1 As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.
- 6:2 For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!
- 6:3 We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry,
- 6:4 but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities,
- 6:5 beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger;
- 6:6 by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love,
- 6:7 truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left;
- 6:8 in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true;
- 6:9 as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see--we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed;
- 6:10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 6:1 "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.
- 6:2 "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.
- 6:3 But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,
- 6:4 so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.
- 6:5 "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.
- 6:6 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.
- 6:16 "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.
- 6:17 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face,

- 6:18 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.
- 6:19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal;
- 6:20 but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal.
- 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

L: This is the word of the Lord for the people of Christ.

P: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

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 penitence, 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

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.
(Prayers of confession in silence)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN #292

What Wondrous Love is This

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Wondrous Love arr. Michael Burkhardt

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days 269

1. Lord, who through-out these for-ty days for
 2. As thou with Sa-tan didst con-tend, and
 3. As thou didst hun-ger bear, and thirst, so
 4. And through these days of pen-i-tence, and
 5. A-bide with us, that so, this life of

us didst fast and pray, teach us with thee to
 didst the vic-tory win, O give us strength in
 teach us, gra-cious Lord, to die to self, and
 through thy pas-sion-tide, yea, ev-er-more in
 suf-fering o-ver past, an Eas-ter of un-

mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.
 thee to fight, in thee to con-quer sin.
 chief-ly live by thy most ho-ly word.
 life and death, Je-sus, with us a-bide.
 end-ing joy we may at-tain at last.

WORDS: Claudia F. Hernaman, 1873 (Mt. 4:1-11; Mk. 1:12-13; Lk. 4:1-13)
 MUSIC: USA folk melody; arr. by Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938;

LAND OF REST
 CM

292 What Wondrous Love Is This

1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
 2. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
 3. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
 4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,

what won - drous love is this, O my soul! What
 what won - drous love is this, O my soul! What
 and God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to
 and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and

won-drous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to
 won-drous love is this, that caused the Lord of life to
 God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM, while
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful be, and

bear the dread-ful curse for my soul, for my soul, to
 lay a - side his crown for my soul, for my soul, to
 mil-lions join the theme I will sing, I will sing; while
 through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

bear the dread - ful curse for my soul.
 lay a - side his crown for my soul.
 mil - lions join the theme I will sing.
 through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

WORDS: USA folk hymn
 MUSIC: USA folk hymn; harm. by Paul I. Christiansen 1955

WONDRIOUS LOVE