

## ASHES— A SIGN OF THE CROSS

### SCRIPTURE

Mark 8:31-35

### RESPONSE

“Lead Me to the Cross”

Screen

## THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

### The Blessing of the Ashes

### The Sign of Ashes

*(If you wish to receive ashes, please come forward)*

### RESPONSE

“With These Ashes”

Screen

### BLESSING

Isaiah 61:1-4

Leader: The Spirit of the Lord is upon you, because the Lord has anointed you; God is sending you to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim a season of God’s favor, to comfort all who mourn— to give them a crown instead of ashes, gladness instead of sorrow, a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

**People: And I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; for God has clothed me in garments of victory, and covered me with a robe of righteousness! As the earth brings forth its shoots, so God will cause justice and praise to spring up before all nations.**

### CHORAL RESPONSE

And for those many times we stumble and fall,  
Your mercy reigns from heaven above.  
Called by Your grace, we answer in faith;  
O Lord, lead us to Your love.  
With these ashes, we know Your love, O Lord,  
With these ashes, we turn our hearts to You.  
Daughters and sons, we journey as one.  
With these ashes, we know Your love, O Lord.

### BENEDICTION



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 14, 2024

6:30 PM

## ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14, 2024

### PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather to celebrate and revere the Lord of Salvation.

**Adults: We come realizing that we are broken.**

Youth: Forgive and recreate us.

Leader: We gather to worship and honor the God of Unfailing Love.

**Adults: We come because of Your compassion.**

Youth: Forgive and recreate us.

Leader: We gather to praise and thank the Spirit of New Life.

**Adults: We come through Your grace and mercy.**

Youth: Forgive and restore us.

**All: With clean hearts, let us worship together.**

### INVOCATION

**OPENING HYMN** "Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly" Screen

### ASHES— A SIGN OF CREATION

**SCRIPTURE** Genesis 2:4b-9

**RESPONSE** "How Great Thou Art" #77, Verses 1, 2, & 3

### ASHES— A SIGN OF MORTALITY

**SCRIPTURE** Psalm 90:1-6

**RESPONSE** "Lord, You Have Been Our Dwelling Place" Chancel Choir

### ASHES— A SIGN OF MOURNING

**SCRIPTURE** Lamentations 2:10-11, 18-19

**RESPONSE** "Worn" Screen

### ASHES— A SIGN OF REPENTANCE

**SCRIPTURE** Daniel 9:3-6, 17-19

## RESPONSE

Prayer of Repentance

Leader: Yet even now, says the Lord, "Return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning."

**People: Return to God.**

Leader: Rend your hearts, and not your clothing.

**People: Return to God.**

Leader: Blow the trumpet in Zion.

**People: Return to God.**

Leader: Consecrate a feast.

**People: Return to God.**

Leader: Call a solemn assembly.

**People: Return to God.**

Leader: Gather the people.

**People: Return to God.**

Leader: Consecrate the congregation.

**People: Return to God.**

Leader: Assemble the aged.

**People: Return to God.**

Leader: Summon the bride and groom.

**People: Return to God.**

Leader: Let the ministers of the Lord weep.

**People: Return to God.**

Leader: Let them say, "Spare Your people, O Lord."

**People: Return to God.**

*(Silent prayer)*

Leader: For God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### VISUAL REFLECTION

"Dust"