

# Perry Hall United Methodist Church

Ash Wednesday - March 2, 2022

**ORGAN PRELUDE** "Into The Woods My Master Went" John Duro

## **\*\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Leader:** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**People: And also, with you.**

**Leader:** Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the Gospel of God and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe the Gospel." He also said: "I have come that you might have life and have that abundantly."

**All : We come before God this night, Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, to hear God's word, to confess our sins, and to ask God to strengthen us in our faith that we might live more holy lives. Amen**

## **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.**

**\*\*HYMN** "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" 269 UMH

**SCRIPTURE** 2 Corinthians 5:20b –6:10

**\*\*HYMN** "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" (Verses 1-2) 382 UMH

**SCRIPTURE** Matthew 6:1 –6, 16–21

**THE MESSAGE** "Ashes" **Pastor Victor Harner**

**CHORAL ANTHEM** "Ashes" Tom Conry

## **INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

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 had 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 was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe 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 humble ourselves before our Creator and Redeemer.

## **THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES**

Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you have created us. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

## **IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES**

*The congregation is invited forward to receive the ashes. After receiving the ashes, you may kneel for prayer at the chancel rail, if so desired.*

## **CONFESSION AND PARDON**

May the Almighty and merciful God, who desires not the death of a sinner but that we turn from our wickedness and live, accept our repentance, forgive our sins, and restore us by the Holy Spirit to newness of life. Amen

## **COMMUNION**

**\*\*HYMN** "Spirit of the Living God" (Sing Twice) 393 UMH

## **\*\*BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace - both now and evermore.

**\*\*ORGAN POSTLUDE** "'Little' Fugue in A minor" J.S. Bach

*(\*\* Please stand as you are able)*



## **PHUMC Staff**

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*Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, the 40 days that precedes Holy Week and Easter. In the Christian Scriptures the number 40 relates to the period spent in the Ark by Noah, the period spent by Israel seeking the Promised Land after the Exodus, and the amount of time Jesus was in the Wilderness after his baptism and prior to beginning his ministry.*

*For us, the Season of Lent is an invitation to 40 days of renewal ("Lent" means "spring"), 40 days to prepare ourselves to take in the Good News of Easter through deeper disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Ashes are the traditional sign of sorrow and repentance and are also a sign of "mortality".*

*Receiving the sacrament tonight reminds us that God's love is triumphant over sin and death, and that God remains "in communion" with us, that in Christ, our mortality is overcome.*

## *Perry Hall United Methodist Church*

# LENT

*"...This is my beloved Son,  
with whom I am well pleased;  
listen to him.' "*

*Matthew 17: 5*

