

Psalm 51:1-17 Common English Bible

Have mercy on me, God, according to your faithful love! Wipe away my wrongdoings according to your great compassion! 2 Wash me completely clean of my guilt; purify me from my sin! 3 Because I know my wrongdoings, my sin is always right in front of me. 4 I've sinned against you—you alone. I've committed evil in your sight. That's why you are justified when you render your verdict, completely correct when you issue your judgment. 5 Yes, I was born in guilt, in sin, from the moment my mother conceived me. 6 And yes, you want truth in the most hidden places; you teach me wisdom in the most secret space. 7 Purify me with hyssop and I will be clean; wash me and I will be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and celebration again; let the bones you crushed rejoice once more. 9 Hide your face from my sins; wipe away all my guilty deeds! 10 Create a clean heart for me, God; put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me! 11 Please don't throw me out of your presence; please don't take your holy spirit away from me. 12 Return the joy of your salvation to me and sustain me with a willing spirit. 13 Then I will teach wrongdoers your ways, and sinners will come back to you. 14 Deliver me from violence, God, God of my salvation, so that my tongue can sing of your righteousness. 15 Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will proclaim your praise. 16 You don't want sacrifices. If I gave an entirely burned offering, you wouldn't be pleased. 17 A broken spirit is my sacrifice, God. You won't despise a heart, God, that is broken and crushed.



Welcome to Hesston United Methodist Church! We are glad you are here.

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Worship: 10:00A
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*Love Christ
Live Christ*

February 14, 2024



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 14, 2024

Greeting

Alignment—A Reading

Hymn Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing UMH 400

Scripture Reading Psalm 51:1-17

Poetry Meditation for Ash Wednesday Tune My Heart
(Followed by a brief silence)

Imposition of the Ashes

Lent is a time for us to return to our Creator who formed us from the dust of the earth. Our lives are finite, so we want to spend every precious moment in tune with God, living whole, abundant lives—the kind of lives we were created to lead. And so in recognition of our origins in the earth, in acknowledgment of our finite days, we come to receive ashes and remember: dust we are, and to dust we shall return.

In mere moments each of you will be invited to come forward and receive the mark of the cross (in ashes) upon your forehead. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship, and the Imposition of Ashes can be a powerful, nonverbal, and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation.

Please note: The words you will hear tonight, as you receive the mark of the cross, will differ from years past. In the Spirit of Valentine's Day, this day of love, we remember that our God is Love. And our God is the beginning and the end of all things, including our lives. So tonight...

Remember that you come from love and to love you will return.

Prayers of the People

L: Holy Creator, you fashioned us from the dust and called us good, so very good. Your fingerprints remain all over us. Don't let us forget that we come from the earth, we will return to the earth, and every day in between is a gift from you. Gifts aren't meant to be encased in glass boxes and set high on a shelf, lest they show any signs of use. No, you gave us this life in the hopes that we would live it fully, using it up and letting it develop signs of wear and tear, a marvelous visual that proves we have lived.

P: But some days we'd rather be safe and sound, where nothing can touch us. It's a beautiful life, but the living can be so hard, God. All along our journeys we get scraped knees, hurt feelings, missteps, mistakes, unexpected diagnoses, broken hearts, painful endings, and phone calls that change our lives in an instant.

L: As the paths of our lives wander through hills and valleys, as we get caught in the rain and the soles of shoes wear down, turn our hearts to hear your voice everywhere. If we listen closely, we can hear it now. It's in uncontrollable giggles, birdsong at the window, the sizzle of a homemade meal on the stove, and melodies buried deep in our souls.

All: Yes, indeed, it's a beautiful life. Not because it's perfect, but because it's real. Journey with us, accompanying us as the path winds. Lift our heads to witness the majesty tucked around every detour. If we look closely, we might see your fingerprints. And if we listen deeply, we just might hear your voice calling us good, so very good. Amen.

Hymn Take My Life, and Let It Be UMH 399

Benediction

**The Ashes were prepared by the Youth Group by burning the palm branches from Palm Sunday.*