

**WELCOME TO SHILOH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

MARCH 5<sup>th</sup> 2025

7:00 PM

**MEDITATION**

*Ash Wednesday is full of joy...The source of all sorrow is the illusion that of ourselves we are anything but dust.*

~Thomas Merton

*Silence*

**PRELUDE**

*"I Lay My Sins on Jesus"*

Kendall

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (Inspired by Psalm 51)

One: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

**All: Keep our eyes on Jesus, our crucified Lord.**

One: Put a new and a right spirit within me.

**All: Keep our hearts in Jesus, our crucified Lord.**

One: My footsteps falter and I lose my way.

**All: Restore us to the joy of your salvation.**

One: Turn me toward you, O God.

**All: Open our lips that we may declare your praise.**

*Silence*

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

One: Let us pray!

**All: O God, passionately righteous and just,  
we are not always righteous and just.**

**Do not cast us away from your presence.**

**We bring to you broken and contrite hearts.**

**O God, steadfastly loving and merciful,**

**accept our worship and have mercy on us. In Jesus' name we  
pray. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

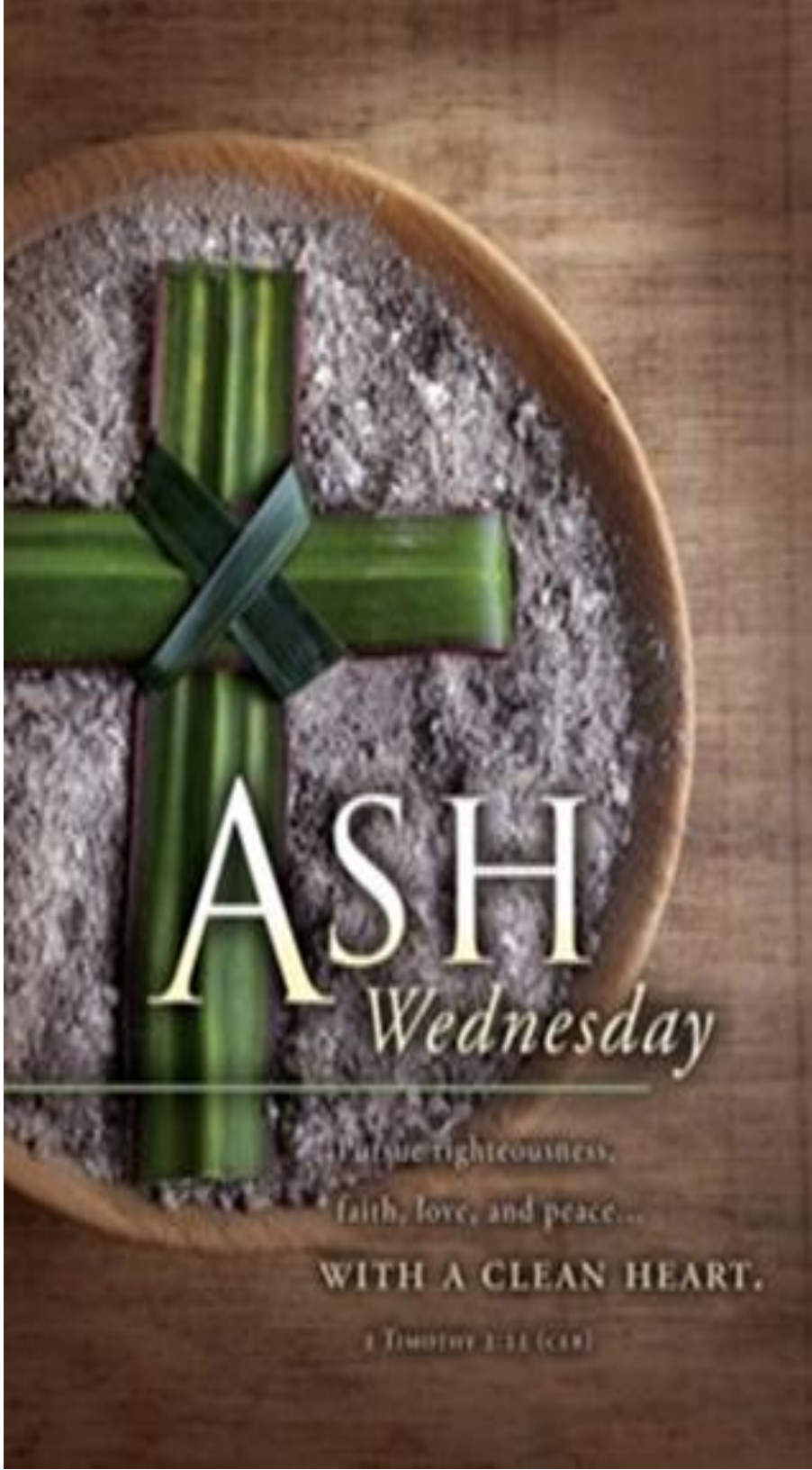
*"Savior, When in Tears and Dust"*

.#185

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Unison Prayer of Confession**

**Eternal and most merciful God, we are children of dust without you. We have not loved as you have loved us, nor have we lived as we ought. God, have mercy upon us. Lift us above every past regret and present failure; reveal to us our true selves; and give us grace to accept your mercy. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.**



*Silence*

### **Meditation on Ash Wednesday**

*Rend your hearts and not your garments, the prophet said (Joel 2:13). The gift of the day is personal reflection, a season of confession, and change. Start the arduous journey from shadow to substance, from ritual to reality, from façade to faith. Today, choose the harder course; follow Jesus Christ.*

*Silence*

### **WITNESS TO OUR SACRED STORY**

First Lesson: Isaiah 58:1-12

Second Lesson: Psalm 51:1-17

**CHANCEL CHOIR**                    *"I Surrender All"*                    Smith

Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**SERMON**                    "Treasures in Heaven"                    Pastor Melinda

**\*HYMN**                    *"Lord, I want To Be a Christian"*                    #454

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

One: Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. Holy God, as the Ordinary season now turns to Lent, we pray that you will guide us in the days ahead. As we journey with Jesus Christ, give us an abiding sense of your presence, an unguarded sense of ourselves, and an awareness of the needs of this world.

**All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

One: Loving God, as we are marked with the ashes of earth, we bring before you the frailty of our very human lives: the fragility of our health, the tenuousness of our accomplishments and plans, the changing nature of even our closest relationships.

**All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

One: Almighty God, grant us patience in suffering and healing from our ills. Give us in equal measure humility and hope in our pursuits. Bind us in covenantal love that is both constant yet able to change according to the needs and circumstances before us.

**All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

One: Just God, you call us to loosen the bonds of injustice, to care for those in need, to lift the burdens that bind others. We ask you to increase our courage and our will to work for the freedom and peace you envision and demand. We pray for an end to warfare and conflict, accepting our calling to be peacemakers. We pray for an end to hunger and homelessness, knowing we are called to share our bread and to open our doors. We pray for an end to false righteousness, evil speech, and shallow piety in our lives, in the church, in our national life, and among all the nations.

**All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

One: Eternal God, we pray that your kingdom will come in fullness; that what is perishable will be raised imperishable; and that death itself will be swallowed up in victory; through Jesus Christ, our Savior who has taught us to pray saying:

**All: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.**

### **PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS BEFORE GOD**

#### **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

"Consider the lilies...look at the birds of the air..." Jesus pulls our attention away from our worries about scarcity and turns our gaze toward the beautiful gifts of God's creation, signs of abundance and grace surrounding us always. Trust may be difficult for us, as it was for those early disciples, yet we bring our gifts today with the assurance of God's care for us every day of our lives. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

#### **\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

" A Lenten Doxology"

**Praise God through- out these forty days.  
Praise Christ, Our Lord, whom God did raise,  
And praise the Spirit who imparts  
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Great God, who created us and continues to sustain us in this world, we give you thanks and praise for the blessings we have received through your bountiful grace. Use our lives and the resources you have given us, so that we may glorify you in all we say and do. Unite us in our journey of faith, that we may strengthen and support one another as we minister to all in need in this world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES**

*(You may receive ashes on your forehead or the back of your hand.)*

Pastor: Creator God who fashioned us from the dust of the earth, bless these ashes that they may a sign of our mortality, and a reminder of your forgiving grace through the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*(Those who desire may come forward where ashes will be imposed.)*

Pastor: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. **Amen.**

*Silence*

Pastor: Listen to the comforting assurance of the grace of God, promised in the Gospel to all who repent and believe:

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him”. – John 3:17  
Believe the Good news!

**All: In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** “O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee” Insert

**BENEDICTION**

Go, now, marked as God's beloved. Look at the people you meet, and remember they are also God's beloved. Go, knowing your days on earth are numbered. Make the most of each day you are given by showing kindness and love. Go to embark on this Lenten journey. Go where the Spirit leads you to do God's work. **Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

“Renew My Soul, O Lord”

Broughton

**PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH**

Sandy Baboian, Julene Bechtel, Jim Sr. and Rosemary Bentzel, Rosabel Bentzel, Helen Byers, Judy Feeser, Dick & Helen Hodgson, Brad Jacobs, Joe Jordan, Bev Kirk, Donna Krone, Elaine Krout, Dottie Limbert, Catherine Lochman, Arlene Myers, Charlotte Rohrbaugh, Cedric Simpson, Steve Snyder, Rick & Sue Trimble, Romaine Walton, Elva Winter, Suzanne Emmons, Jane Harrison



**THOSE WHO GRIEVE FOR THEIR LOVED ONES**

The Trimble/Deveney Family, The Smith Family, The Taft Family, The Robertson/Jordan Family

**GREETER:** Steve Besecker

**USHER:** Sue Besecker

**LITURGIST:** Nathan Limbert



**OFFERING:** The Ash Wednesday loose offering and the special Lenten Offering envelopes will be donated to the Shiloh Fire Company.



# O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee 430

1. O Mas-ter, let me walk with thee in low - ly  
 2. Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,  
 3. Teach me thy pa-tience; still with thee in clos - er,  
 4. In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice free; tell me thy se - cret;  
 win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward  
 dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith  
 fu - ture's broad - ening way, in peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.  
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.  
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong;  
 thou canst give, with thee, O Mas-ter, let me live.

WORDS: Washington Gladden, 1879  
 MUSIC: H. Percy Smith, 1874

MARYTON  
 LM

## THE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D.  
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