

**ASH WEDNESDAY**



**FEBRUARY 17, 2021**

**Restored to God**

**7:00 PM**

**Saint John's United Church of Christ, Orwigsburg, PA**

**“Restored to God”**  
**Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021**  
**Saint John’s United Church of Christ, Orwigsburg, PA**

**Meditation**

“Let today be the day you give up who you’ve been for who you can become.”  
Hal Elrod

**Chimes**

**Greeting**

**Prelude**

*A Clean Heart*  
Chancel Choir

Benjamin Harlan

**✠ Call to Worship (Congregation reads bold print)**

Return to the Lord your God,

**for God is gracious.**

Confess to the Lord your God,

**for God is merciful.**

Repent to the Lord your God,

**for God is slow to anger.**

Praise the Lord your God,

**for God abounds in steadfast love.**

Worship the Lord your God.

**All: Together, let us worship God!**

**✠ Opening Prayer**

**Opening Hymn**

*Change My Heart O God*

Change my heart oh God

Make it ever true

Change my heart oh God

May I be like You

Change my heart oh God

Make it ever true

Change my heart oh God

May I be like You

You are the potter

I am the clay

Mold me and make me

This is what I pray

Change my heart oh God

Make it ever true

Change my heart oh God

May I be like You

## Scripture Readings

*Joel 2:12-17, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21*

## Message

*“Restored to God”*

### ✠ Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline & Confession

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, study, and works of love help us return to that love. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to love God and neighbor by confessing your sin and by asking God for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline. Let us pray.

**Most holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with all our heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We confess to you, O God, all our unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

**We confess to you, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,

**We confess to you, O God.**

Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**We confess to you, O God.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in our daily life and work,

**We confess to you, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

**We confess to you, O God.**

Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**Accept our repentance, O God.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

**Accept our repentance, O God.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**Accept our repentance, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great. Amen.**

## Silent Reflection

## **Imposition of Ashes**

*Please come forward for ashes; on your forehead, hand, or a just blessing.*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation.

**That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of our Savior,

**bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.**

✠ **Giving our Gifts to God**

✠ **Prayer of Dedication**

✠ **The Lord's Prayer**

✠ **Closing Hymn**

Lead Me to Calvary

King of my life I crown Thee now-  
Thine shall the glory be;  
Lest I forget Thy thorn-crowned brow,  
Lead me to Calvary.

Lest I forget Gethsemane,  
Lest I forget Thine agony,  
Lest I forget Thy love for me,  
Lead me to Calvary.

Show me the tomb where Thou wast laid,  
Tenderly mourned and wept;  
Angels in robes of light arrayed  
Guarded Thee whilst Thou slept.

Lest I forget Gethsemane,  
Lest I forget Thine agony,  
Lest I forget Thy love for me,  
Lead me to Calvary.

May I be willing, Lord, to bear  
Daily my cross for Thee;  
Even Thy cup of grief to share-  
Thou hast borne all for me.

Lest I forget Gethsemane,  
Lest I forget Thine agony,  
Lest I forget Thy love for me,  
Lead me to Calvary.

*(Please be seated until the candles are extinguished. Quietly leave the sanctuary.)*

**Worship Leader:** Pastor Jeff Johnson

**Music Director:** Trena Murphy

Pastor Jeff will offer a Wednesday evening devotion and prayer time on Facebook live during lent at 7:00 pm.

(Feb 24<sup>th</sup>, Mar 3, 10, and 17, and 24)

•**Maundy Thursday service with Tenebrae, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm**

•**Easter Celebration - Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 10 am**

### **Joel 2:12-17**

Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 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. 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? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; 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. 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?'"

### **Matthew 6: 1-6; 16-21**

"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. "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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"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. 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.

"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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 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.

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