



**ASH WEDNESDAY
WORSHIP**

**MARCH 2, 2022
7:00PM**

“When We’re Estranged from God”

7:00 PM

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

Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022
Saint John's United Church of Christ, Orwigsburg, PA

Meditation

“The real question of the Lenten season is how will I clear out the junk and garbage in my life so that I can be restored to God in some fresh way? What are the disciplines that will open up space for God to create a clean heart and new spirit in me?”

Ruth Haley Barton.

Chimes

Prelude *There is a Balm - arr. Robert Lau*

Greeting

✠ Call to Worship (Congregation reads bold print)

In the midst of darkness we have come.

Heal us, Lord Jesus.

Save us from the darkness of our souls.

Save us, Lord Jesus.

Let us follow you and obey your commands

Direct and guide us, Lord Jesus.

Brighten our lives and lift our spirits.

Bring us to your glorious presence, Lord Jesus. Amen.

✠ Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

Opening Hymn *There is a Fountain Filled With Blood*

There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains:
Lose all their guilty stains,
Lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains.

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood
Shall never lose its power,
Till all the ransomed ones of God
Be saved, to sin no more:
Be saved, to sin no more,
Be saved, to sin no more;
Till all the ransomed ones of God,
Be saved to sin no more.

E'er since by faith I saw the stream
Thy flowing wounds supply,

Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be till I die:
And shall be till I die,
And shall be till I die;
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be till I die.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

Message

“When We’re Estranged from 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.

A Time of 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

✠ Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

✠ The Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we

forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us

from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

Amen

✠ Closing Hymn *I Then Shall Live*

I then shall live as one who's been forgiven.

I'll walk with joy to know my debts are paid.

I know my name is clear before my Father;

I am His child and I am not afraid.

So, greatly pardoned, I'll forgive my brother;

The law of love I gladly will obey.

I then shall live as one who's learned compassion.

I've been so loved, that I'll risk loving too.

I know how fear builds walls instead of bridges;

I'll dare to see another's point of view.

And when relationships demand commitment,

Then I'll be there to care and follow through.

Your Kingdom come around and through and in me;

Your power and glory, let them shine through me.

Your Hallowed Name, O may I bear with honor,

And may Your living Kingdom come in me.

The Bread of Life, O may I share with honor,

And may You feed a hungry world through me.

✠ Sending Forth and Blessing

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

Worship Leader: Pastor Jeff Johnson

Music Director: Trena Murphy

Pastor Jeff is offering a Lenten Bible Study Fellowship time during lent Wednesdays at 11:00 am. (Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Apr 6,13) Please contact the church office for information.

•**Maundy Thursday service with Tenebrae, April 14th at 6:00 pm**

•**Easter Celebration - Sunday, April 17th, 10 am**

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.

