FEBRUARY 14, 2018

Ash Wednesday

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Ash Wednesday

CELEBRANTS **Rev. Jerry Bass & Rev. Chang Yi**

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Even now, says the Lord:
Return to me with all your heart.
Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast.

All: With all our hearts, we return to the Lord,
for God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love!

*** OPENING PRAYER**

One: Let us pray.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, let us find our rest in you. As we begin this season of Lent, we step out of the fast-moving current of daily life. During this holy season, may we choose stillness over action; may we strive to listen rather than to speak. Help us slow our pace and quiet our minds that our spirits may draw closer to you. Bless our worship with your presence, and fill our minds with new wisdom, that we may rise with you at Easter and lift up others in your name. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

"Just as I Am, Without One Plea" (vv. 1, 3, 5) UMH 357

SCRIPTURE LESSON Joel 1:1-2, 12-13 & Psalm 51:1-15

CHORAL ANTHEM *"Come To Jesus"*
by Chris Rice and Mark Hayes

MESSAGE *"Ashes, Ashes, We All Fall Down!"* Rev. Jerry Bass

HYMN OF CONFESSION

"Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed" UMH 359

* Please Stand If Able

OUR SANTUARY IS EQUIPPED WITH HEARING LOOP TECHNOLOGY. SEE USHER FOR DETAILS

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

(You are invited to receive the sign of the cross in ashes on your forehead. After receiving the ashes, please return to your pew silently, in an attitude of confession and repentance.)

Song during the ritual: *"Spirit of the Living God"* UMH 393

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Let us pray.

All: Almighty and most merciful God, you know the thoughts of our hearts. We confess that we have sinned against you and done evil in your sight. We have transgressed your holy laws. We have ignored your Word and Sacraments.
Forgive us, O Lord. Give us grace and power to put away all hurtful things that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance and ever walk in your ways. *(Modified from* The UM Book of Worship*, #477)*

SILENT PRAYERS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: The Lord our God is gracious, slow to anger,
and abounding in steadfast love.
All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
One: Thanks be to God.
All: Amen

* PASSING THE PEACE

* LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

* CLOSING HYMN *"I Surrender All" (v. 1,3,5)* UMH 354

* BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

One: With the ash of repentance, we have entered Lent.
All: With contrite hearts, we await our Lord.
One: Create in us a clean heart, O God,
and help us hear the joy of your calling.
All: Restore to us the joy of your salvation.
One: Go with God's blessing.

IF YOU NEED A QUIET PLACE FOR YOUR CHILD, OUR NURSERY IS LOCATED IN THE UPPER WEST WING