



## Bethlehem United Church of Christ

### Ash Wednesday, 2022

Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver

Organist: Polly Jeanty

#### **Bethlehem Safe Indoor Worship Guidelines**

- Masks = You decide what's best for you, your loved ones and those around you.
- Remain 6 feet apart from members outside of your family
- An offering plate will be available in a central location
- Please wait for an usher to dismiss you after the service.
- For those who wish to congregate, you are asked to do so outside
- Please stay home if you or a member of your family is not feeling well.
- Scrip will be available for purchase on the first and third Sundays. We ask that when purchasing scrip cards that only one person be at the scrip table at a time.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME

PRELUDE

GREETING AND INTRODUCTION

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And on the whole world, peace!**

L: Friends in Christ... Let us begin the journey, then, with Jesus, with each other, and with the whole church everywhere.

HYMN #173 vs. 1-2      "Lord, Who Throughout these Forty Days"

READINGS AND RESPONSES – THE SIGNS OF THE ASHES

1. Ashes, a sign of creation

READING *Genesis 2:4b-9*

*Silence*

RESPONSE From *Psalms 8*

O Lord, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
**When I look to the heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars you established—  
what are human beings that you are mindful of us?  
mortals that you care for us?  
Yet you have made us only a little less than divine  
and crowned us with glory and honor.  
O Lord, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

2. Ashes, a sign of mortality

READING *Genesis 3:8-13, 17-19*

*Silence*

\*RESPONSE #433 vs 1                      “I want Jesus to Walk with Me”

3. Ashes, a sign of repentance

READING *Isaiah 58:1-12*

*Silence*

RESPONSE From *Psalms 130*

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord  
**Lord hear my voice!  
Be attentive to my supplication!  
If you should count our sins against us, Lord, who could stand?  
But with you is forgiveness, so that you may be revered.**

**I wait for the Lord, my soul waits for God,  
more than those who watch for the morning,  
more than those who watch for the dawn.  
Hope in the Lord forever,  
for with God is steadfast love and power to save.**

4. Ashes in the sign of the Cross

READING *Matthew 16:21-26a*

*Silence*

RESPONSE #433 vs 2                    “I want Jesus to Walk with Me”

*The Ritual of Ashes*

BLESSING OF THE ASHES

THE SIGN OF ASHES

*Those wishing to receive the imposition of ashes, should move to the center aisle.  
After you have receiving the sign of the ashes, please return via the side aisles.*

RESPONSE #433 vs 3                    “I want Jesus to Walk with Me”

*Holy Communion*

HYMN #524 vs. 1-2                    “Let us Break Bread Together”

INVITATION

THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

And we remember that on the bleak night of betrayal, he gathered his friends. Even with his betrayer beside him, he was grateful to you for life and all the gifts of this earth. He blessed and broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, **'This is my body, broken for you. Eat it and remember me.'**

And when supper was over,  
he took a cup filled with wine, and blessed it.  
He gave it to them saying,

**'Take this and drink it,  
it is my life-blood poured out for you  
so that sins may be forgiven.**

**"When you do these things together, remember me."**

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come Holy Spirit, bless these gifts that earth has given and human hands have made.

**By our eating and drinking, fill us with the joy of Christ and keep us persevering in his way, honoring our bodies, serving our neighbor, and praising your name.**

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.**

SHARING THE MEAL

THANKSGIVING

Let us give thanks.

**Thank you, God,  
for life in the Spirit of Jesus,  
for gladness in this bread and cup,  
for love that cannot die,**

**for peace the world cannot give,  
for joy in the company of friends,  
for the splendors of creation,  
and for the mission of justice you have made our own.  
Give us the fruits of this holy communion:  
oneness of heart, love for neighbors,  
forgiveness of enemies,  
the will to serve you every day,  
and life that never ends.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

HYMN #467 vs. 1-2      "Abide With Me"

*Blessing, Sending, and Peace*

BLESSING (Cf. Isaiah 61:1-4)

The Spirit of the Lord is upon you,  
and heal the despair of many generations.

RESPONSE

**And I shall greatly rejoice in the Lord;  
for God has clothed me in garments of salvation,  
and covered me with a robe of righteousness!  
As the earth brings forth its shoots,  
so God will cause justice and praise  
to spring up before all nations!**

PEACE

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!  
**Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Service adapted from:

<https://sicutlocutusest.com/2013/02/12/order-of-service-for-ash-wednesday-including-holy-communion/>