



**Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC
Ash Wednesday
March 2, 2022**

Prelude What Wondrous Love is This arr. John Carter

Invocation

*Call to Worship (Genesis 2:7; 3: 19 Psalm 104: 29-30; John 1: 18)

One: Friends and neighbors, in the middle of our busy week,
we pause to observe Ash Wednesday together as a faith community.

**All: We come to remember that God made us from fragile, blessed dust
and breathes through us the breath of life and love.**

One: From dust we are created in God's image
and to God's good dust we shall return.

All: With dust and oil we claim the mark of God's beloved creature.

One: Today we begin our 40-day Lenten journey
to discover who we are created to be as God's beloved.

**All: In daily practices of prayer and service
we will embark upon this Lenten journey.**

One: We follow Jesus, God's Beloved Child,
one of our bone and flesh of our flesh
In whom we see God's image most clearly.

**All: So come, let us pray for strength and imagination
to follow Jesus wherever he will lead us this Lent.**

Gathering Reflection

*Hymn Taize - Kyrie Eleison 1

Scriptures: Isaiah 58:1-12
 Ps. 51:1-4, 10-17
 Matthew 6:16-21

Meditation and Invitation to Observe a Lenten Discipline

Time of Silence and Written Reflection

Prayer of Confession

*After each part of the prayer, the congregation is invited to sing
"Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God" (#784 Black)*

Lord, come and help us clear all the debris from our hearts. Come and restore us to your presence. We have too long ignored you and wandered from your call. Open our ears, shatter our self-delusions, push us to see the kind of fast and repentance that you desire. Bring us back to you, merciful God.

"Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God"

You ask us to care for the earth but often we try to conquer and subdue it. We have poisoned our life-support systems of soil, water, and air with toxic waste. We have damaged our forests through clear-cutting and acid rain. Our oceans, lakes, and streams are littered with plastic and laced with sewage. We are annihilating our companion creatures at a rapid rate. May we repent and be repairers of the breach.

"Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God"

Nations war with nations so we might have cheap oil. Children die in poverty so we can have lower taxes. Migrant workers poison their bodies and lose their faculties that we might have cheaper food. Bombs kill innocents abroad as we fail to take care to divide enemy from bystander or demand that our government change. May we repent and be repairers of the breach.

“Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God”

We speak about justice but fail to act when injustice comes to our town or our ballot box. We speak about peace but fail to take our leaders to account when the war drums sound. We speak about healing but sit and watch our uninsured neighbors live in fear or drown in debt. We speak making our lives acceptable to the Lord, but walk away when it gets too hard. May we repent and be repairers of the breach.

“Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God”

In this Lenten season, when we fear and are doubtful, help us find the strength and courage of faith. When we are lonely and afraid, remind us of your healing love. When we are tempted to do nothing out of apathy or despair, call us to account again. Be with us, O Lord, and heal our spirits. May we work for your justice and be repairers of the breaches in our lives, our communities and our world.

“Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God”

Create in us clean hearts, O God. Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

The congregation is invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes, a reminder of our mortality and the eternal nature of God. “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return, but the steadfast love of God endures forever.”

Reflective Music Ashes

T. Conry

A Litany of Forgiveness and Commitment

All: We acknowledge and confess our sins of thought, word and deed, and we humbly seek God’s forgiveness.

One: God hears the confession of our heart and lips. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven all our sins, and by the power of the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life.

All: We believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. From this moment forward we commit to walking in the ways of God’s love, peace and justice.

One: God’s peace be with you.

Hymn

Taize O Lord Hear My Prayer

Benediction

You are invited to stay in silence to meditate, pray, reflect, or continue singing the music as our final hymn softens. Please, leave in silence from this space so that others may continue to share this space in silence.

Rev. Reebee Kavich Girash, Pastor
Sarah Jane Fuller, Director of Christian Education
Dot Bowe, Director of Music

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We will offer a Lenten Bible Study on Creation Care and Climate Justice via Zoom, Wednesday March 9, 23 and 30 at 7:00pm. All welcome; no advance preparation needed.

Please join us for all our upcoming Lent and Easter Worship services:

Worship on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am

Palm Sunday Service – April 10, 2022

Maundy Thursday Service – April 14, 2022 at 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday – April 17, 2022

Kyrie Eleison 1

Ky-ri-e, Ky-ri-e, e-le-i-son. (hum)

Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994, © 1978, 1980, 1981, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Ostinato Chorale

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer:
 *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise:
 Se - ñor, ten pie - dad, Se - ñor, ten pie - dad:

when I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O
 all my hope comes from God. The Lord is my song, the
 si te in - vo - co, ó - ye - me. Se - ñor, ten pie - dad, Se -

Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O
 Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life. The
 ñor, ten pie - dad: Ven, y es - cu - cha mi voz. Se -

*Alternate text

Text: Psalm 102; Taizé Community, 1982
 Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
 © 1982, 2011, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

PSALTER

Psalm 51

Response
 C F (Dm7) Em7 Antiphon: Emma Lou Diemer, 1994
 (FM7) G C

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God.