



ASH WEDNESDAY

February 22, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Ash Wednesday

Order of Worship

(*Please rise in body or in spirit.)

PRELUDE “Adagio” (Vierne) Henry Repp

GREETING Rev. Todd Lattig

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Return to me with all your heart, says the Lord.

We open our hearts to soulful examination.

Return to the Lord who is gracious and merciful.

We open our hearts to God’s steadfast love.

With your hearts open to the Lord, what do you seek?

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

*OPENING PRAYER (unison) Rev. Lattig

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.

*HYMN “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” UMH 269

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison) Rev. Heather Morrison Yaden

We bring our burdens and our sins to You, O Christ, who bears the heavy load for us. We recognize how often we offer only excuses, continuing to live out our shortcomings and dwell in our anger and our desire, rather than laying down our burdens. Help us to know that You can remove these sins from us and restore us to life.

We confess that we have gone astray. We confess that we have not loved You fully and have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We confess that we have not fully loved even our very selves.

Forgive us our sins. Help us to turn back to You. Restore what has been broken, transform what has been twisted, find what has been lost, so we may be the living, loving image of You in creation. In Your precious name we pray. Amen.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE Rev. Morrison Yaden
 The Lord our God is gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in
 steadfast love.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.
Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST Rev. Morrison Yaden

SPECIAL MUSIC “Come to Me” Kathleen Meredith

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD Rev. Morrison Yaden

PSALTER Psalm 51:1-17 UMH 785-786

SCRIPTURE LESSON Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Rev. Morrison Yaden

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Rev. Lattig
 This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God for this Word.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD Rev. Lattig
 God does not ask us to feel guilty, but to return to the Lord with
 all our hearts.
**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right
 spirit within me.**
 Christ calls us to be humble, to fast and pray in secret.
Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.
 Examine your hearts. What burdens need to be lifted? What
 trespasses beg for forgiveness?
**Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a
 generous spirit. Amen.**

ANTHEM “God So Loved the World” (Stainer) Combined Choirs

TIME OF REFLECTION Rev. Lattig

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES Rev. Morrison Yaden

HOLY COMMUNION (see insert) Revs. Lattig and Morrison Yaden

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

SHARING COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION Rev. Morrison Yaden

OFFERTORY “Ah, Holy Jesus” (Brahms) Henry Repp
 You may leave your offering in the plate in the narthex or scan
 one of the QR codes on the back of this bulletin to make your
 offering electronically.

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

*OFFERING PRAYER (unison)

Rev. Lattig

Gracious God, we have sought recognition for our piety, and taken pride in our giving. Receive these offerings in the spirit of your Son, who taught us to watch our hearts — for where our hearts are, there our treasure will be also. May our treasure be in you, Holy One, and in the welfare of our world. Amen.

*HYMN

“Just as I Am, Without One Plea”

UMH 357

*BENEDICTION

Revs. Lattig and Morrison Yaden

POSTLUDE

“Toccatina” (Diggle)

Henry Repp

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Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Newton

Rev. Todd Lattig

Interim Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Newton

Rev. Heather Morrison Yaden

Organist/Music Director

Henry Repp

Combined Choir

Members of the Newton FUMC Chancel Choir
and the First Presbyterian Church Choir

Greeter

Evelyn Cornwell

Camera Operator

Jen Phlegar

Soundboard Operator

Jay Morrison

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