



*Wednesday,  
February 17, 2021  
Ash Wednesday*



**Prelude**      *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*  
Velda Graham Bell, piano

arr. Howard Helvey

**Greeting and Welcome**

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

**Lighting the Seven Lights of Our Lenten Journey** Pastor Cynthia Coffin-Langdon and Kelby Werner  
We light seven candles to guide us in our Lenten journey, reminding us that we do not journey in darkness, but have light to guide our way.

- **The light of the CROSS** represents the power and paradox of the Gospel: a way of death becomes the way to life.
- **The light of SCRIPTURE** which lights our way, proclaiming the message of our faith.
- **The light of SILENCE** reminds us of God's presence in the absence of noise.
- **The light of PRAYER** guides us as we rise each morning and retire each night.
- **The light of the SACRAMENTS** of communion and baptism remind us of God's unconditional love and divine hospitality.
- **The light of SACRIFICE** is willingly placing ourselves in God's hand as we focus on the ways of Jesus and provide for the needs of others.
- **The light of LOVE** lights our path showing us the way to go. Love brings light in the midst of darkness. Love ushers in the gift of abundant, eternal life.

**Hymn**      *Gather Us In*

The Faith We Sing #2236, v. 1, 2, 4  
led by Riley Hinnenkamp and Velda Graham Bell

*1. Here in this place, new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away,  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings,  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in – the lost and forsaken,  
gather us in – the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*2. We are the young – our lives are a myst'ry,  
we are the old – who yearn for your face,  
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,  
called to be light to the whole human race.*

*Gather us in – the rich and the haughty,  
gather us in – the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.*

*4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light-years away,  
but here in this place the new light is shining,  
now is the Kingdom, now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever,  
gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in – all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

**Prayer**  
**Lord's Prayer**

Pastor Cynthia Coffin-Langdon

**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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

## Scripture Reading

Jeri and Kelby Werner

### Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

- One: Sound the trumpet on Zion, the Lord's sacred hill.  
**All: Warn everyone to tremble! The judgment day of the Lord is coming soon.**  
One: It will be dark and gloomy with storm clouds overhead. Troops will cover the mountains like thunderclouds. No army this powerful has ever been gathered before or will ever be again.  
**All: The Lord said, "It isn't too late. You can still return to me with all your heart.**  
One: "Start crying and mourning! Go without eating. Don't rip your clothes to show your sorrow. Instead, turn back to me with broken hearts. I am merciful, kind and caring. I don't easily lose my temper and I don't like to punish. I am the Lord your God. Perhaps I will change my mind and treat you with mercy. Then you will be blessed with enough grain and wine for offering sacrifices to me. Sound the trumpet on Zion! Call the people together. Show your sorrow by going without food. Make sure that everyone is fit to worship me. Bring adults, children, babies and even bring newlyweds from their festivities. Tell my servants, the priests, to cry inside the temple and to offer this prayer near the altar: 'Save your people, Lord God! Don't let foreign nations make jokes about us.  
**All: Don't let them laugh and ask, 'Where is your God?'"**

## Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

## Anthem

*Give Me a Clean Heart*

Margaret Douroux

Riley Hinnenkamp, bass; Velda Graham Bell, piano

## Meditation

*Love Brings Community Out of Chaos*

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

## Hymn

*Sunday's Palms are Wednesday's Ashes*

UM Hymnal #408

led by Riley Hinnenkamp and Velda Graham Bell

*1. Sunday's palms are Wednesday's ashes  
as another Lent begins;  
thus we kneel before our Maker  
in contrition for our sins.  
We have marred baptismal pledges,  
in rebellion gone astray;  
now, returning, seek forgiveness;  
grant us pardon, God, this day!*

*2. We have failed to love our neighbors,  
their offences to forgive,  
have not listened to their troubles,  
nor have cared just how they live,*

*we are jealous, proud, impatient,  
loving over much our things;  
may the yielding of our failings  
be our Lenten offerings.*

*3. We are hasty to judge others,  
blind to proof of human need;  
and our lack of understanding  
demonstrates our inner greed;  
we have wasted earth's resources;  
want and suffering we've ignored;  
come and cleanse us, then restore us;  
make new hearts within us, Lord!*

## Imposition of the Ashes

Pastors Jeanine Alexander and Cynthia Coffin-Langdon

- One: We are children of the Earth.  
**All: From the dust of the stars, we were formed and to the dust of the earth we will return.**  
One: This is a day of true repentance, a time to return to God with all our hearts.  
**All: We ask forgiveness for all those things which we have done that we should not have done. We ask forgiveness for all those things left undone which we should have done.**  
One: As we turn toward God, God welcomes us with amazing grace. Let us pray.  
**All: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that**

**only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

*Create your own way to be marked with the cross. Use the sticker from your Lenten bag, or eyeliner, or a marker, or with ashes. Or mark the cross on yourself in your imagination*

**Commission and Blessing**

Pastors Jeanine Alexander and Cynthia Coffin-Langdon

One: The voice of God, which conflicts and consoles, sends us back into our everyday world.

**All: We scatter with God's word in our hearts and the assurance of God's power sustaining us.**

One: Take with you the light of God's revelation and the knowledge of God's glory in the cross of Christ.

**All: We seek to attune our spirits to our Creator, that the light may shine for others through us.**

One: Live boldly in this Lenten season and live in the Light of the Cross. Amen

**Postlude**      *In the Cross*

Thomas Keesecker

Velda Graham Bell, piano



***Lenten bag pickup info for First and Hillside***

**Hillsiders:** you may pick up a Lenten grab bag at church anytime during this week. The bags are in the grey bin outside the parking lot doors. In the bags are: a cross for Ash Wednesday, Lenten Devotional book, communion elements, a valentine and candy. If you would like to pick one up for a neighbor, please do!

**First UMC:** Lenten grab bags are on a table just inside the front doors. The bags include: a Lenten devotional book, a cross for Ash Wednesday and a Valentine treat. Home communion elements, masks and Sunday School materials for children are also available, and we have some puzzles if you'd like something new to occupy your winter days.

***Lenten Study and Growth Groups via Zoom:*** we'll be meeting to discuss "Love Is The Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times" by Bishop Michael Curry, but you can fully participate in the discussion whether you read the book or not.

3 group options starting mid-February:

(1) **Thursdays at 10 am** - led by Pastor Jeanine & Kelby Werner

February 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/915188407> Meeting ID: 915 188 407

(2) **Sundays 9-9:45 am** - Led by Rev. MaryAnne & Pastor Jeanine

February 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5446347519> Meeting ID: 544 634 7519

(3) **Mondays 8pm** - Led by Pastor Cynthia & Rev. Jan Barker

February 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

<https://us.02web.zoom.us/j/7867461473> Meeting ID: 786 746 1473

To sign up for any of the groups or if you have questions:

- Call the FUMC church office (218-727-5021) or e-mail Pastor Jeanine ([pastor@fumcduluth.com](mailto:pastor@fumcduluth.com))
- Call the Hillside church office (218727-4257) or e-mail Pastor Cynthia ([pastorcynthiac@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcynthiac@gmail.com))

*If you would like to connect with Pastor Jeanine and other FUMC members, please join us for a Zoom meeting every Thursday morning at 10 am. We'll visit with one another, hear church updates, share Scripture and pray. Come any time – once or every week. You are welcome!*  
The Zoom meeting link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/915188407> Meeting ID: 915 188 407

*Thank you to Bill Alexander and Alex Flinner for recording, compiling, editing and distributing the videos to create our online worship service.*

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***Ways to give to support your church:***

***Hillside UMC ([hillsideumchurch.com](http://hillsideumchurch.com)):*** please mail gifts to Hillside UMC,  
1801 Piedmont Ave., Duluth, MN 55811

***First UMC ([fumcduluth.com](http://fumcduluth.com)):*** give online at [fumcduluth.com](http://fumcduluth.com) **OR** text COPPERTOP to 73256 **OR** mail to  
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