



## *First United Methodist Church*

*Wednesday, February 14, 2024*  
*Ash Wednesday*



*Please be aware that our services are livestreamed, and any adults and/or children participating in musical groups, children's messages, and liturgist roles will appear on camera.*

*Children will remain in worship tonight and there will be an activity for them in their seats.  
A nursery for children ages 5 and under is on the lower level.*

**Prelude**      *Herzlich tut mich verlangen (My heart is ever yearning)*      Johannes Brahms  
Velda Graham Bell, organ

**Greeting and Welcome**      Pastor Jeanine Alexander

**\* Call to Worship**

One: We gather for worship as we begin the journey of Lent.

**All: The poor and the rich, the strong and the faint, celebrating and sorrowing, all of us together.**

One: We gather for worship as we begin the journey of Lent.

**All: We come to be empowered and inspired for the path in front of us.**

One: We gather for worship as we begin the journey of Lent.

**All: May God fill us with joy, redeem us from sin, and inspire us with hope. We gather for worship as together we begin the journey of Lent.**

**\* Hymn**      *Sunday's Palms are Wednesday's Ashes*      The Faith We Sing #2138

**Children's Message**

**Prayer**      Rev. MaryAnne Korsch

**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 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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Lighting the Seven Lights of Our Lenten Journey**

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** 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 reminds 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.

## Scripture Readings

### Philippians 2:1-11

- One: If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.
- All: Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.**
- One: Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.
- All: And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.**
- One: Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
- All: and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God.**

### James 1:22-24

Do not merely listen to the word of God, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at their face in a mirror and, after looking at themselves, goes away and immediately forgets what they look like.

- Anthem**      *A Pure Heart*      Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director      Craig Courtney
- Meditation**      *Putting Feet to Our Faith #1: The Book of James*      Pastor Jeanine Alexander
- \* **Hymn**      *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*      UM Hymnal #452

## Offering Our Gifts

- Imposition of Ashes**      Pastor Jeanine Alexander and Rev. MaryAnne Korsch
- 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.**

*For those worshipping online, please create your own way to be marked with the cross.*

- \* **Hymn**      *What Wondrous Love is This*      UM Hymnal #292

## Commission and Blessing

- 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**      *Jesus, Lead Thou On*

Velda Graham Bell, organ

Paul Manz

\* Please stand as you are comfortable

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*A devotional booklet for each day of the Lenten season (Ash Wednesday to Easter) is available at church. You may also receive it online; email the church office ([info@fumcduluth.com](mailto:info@fumcduluth.com)) to ask for it.*

***Lenten Book Study:** "Multiplying Love: A Vision of United Methodist Life Together" by Paul Chilcote. This class will be led by Rev. MaryAnne Korsch, Dr. Maryjane Burdge, and Pastor Jeanine Alexander. There are two options: Thursdays at 10am in person at FUMC or Thursdays at 6:30pm on Zoom. Attend whichever session works best for you each week. The classes will be held February 22 and 29, and March 7 and 21. Our world needs love during these desperate days of radical polarization and division. "Multiplying Love" underscores what matters most and helps us embrace the Wesleyan vision of love of Jesus as central to what we believe and how we live. Sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or by calling the church office (218-727-5021). Books are available to purchase for \$15.*

***Guest WIFI Network:** FirstUnitedPublic. Password: Public2022.*

***Thank you** to Alex Flinner, Tommy Kishida, and the Livestream Team for making the online service possible.*

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