

First United Methodist Church

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 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 aged 5 and under is on the lower level.

Prelude O mensch bewein dein Sünde groß (O man, bewail thou sin so great)

Velda Graham Bell, organ

J. S. Bach

Tom Wiig

Greeting and Welcome

Rev. MaryAnne Korsch

* 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 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

UM Hymnal #269

Prayer Lord's Prayer

Rev. Mary Anne Korsch

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

Confirmation Class

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 Tom Wiig

Joel 2: 12-13

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your hearts, with fasting, with weeping, and with sorrow; tear your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord your God, for God is merciful and compassionate, very patient, full of faithful love, and ready to forgive.

Isaiah 58: 3-8, 11

(We ask God) "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail.

Anthem Come Thou Fount Craig Courtney

Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director

Meditation *Dust* Rev. MaryAnne Korsch

* Hymn O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee UM Hymnal #430

Offering Our Gifts

Confession and Pardon – Psalm 51:1-17

One: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

All: According to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.

One: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

All: For I know my transgressions and my sin is ever before me.

One: Against you, you only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless in your judgment. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

All: Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

One: Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit.

All: Then I will teach transgressors your ways and sinners will return to you.

One: Deliver me from death, O God, God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

All: O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall show forth your praise.

One: For you have no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

All: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Imposition of Ashes

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 Sunday's Palms are Wednesday's Ashes

The Faith We Sing #2138

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

Paul Manz

Velda Graham Bell, organ

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 (<u>info@fumcduluth.com</u>) to ask for it.

Lenten Book Study: All are welcome at this year's Lenten book study on six consecutive Monday evenings from 6-7pm, beginning March 10 and concluding April 14, on Zoom. We will join United Methodists across the Minnesota and Dakotas Conferences as we take a deep dive into "The Third Day: Living the Resurrection" by Bishop Tom Berlin. Class will be facilitated by Dr. Maryjane Burdge and Rev. MaryAnne Korsch. Pastor Jeanine will join if her schedule allows. Sign up in the Narthex or call the church office (218-727-5021) to register. Books are available for purchase for \$13 in the church office. The book describes how the resurrection of Jesus Christ profoundly changed the lives of those who followed him and how it can transform ours as well.

Guest WIFI Network: FirstUnitedPublic. Password: Public2022.

Thank you to the Livestream Team for making the online service possible.

Music reprinted and broadcast under OneLicense # A-704169, CCLI License # 388862 and CCS WORSHIPcast License # 12033. All rights reserved.

^{*} please stand as you are comfortable