

# Wesley United Methodist Church

6:30 PM Worship

March 5, 2025

Ash Wednesday

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*At Wesley we foster a sanctuary culture by creating a safe environment where all feel welcomed, loved, accepted, valued, and affirmed for who they are, through intentional practices such as empathy, compassion, generosity, hospitality, and inclusion.*

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***Please let an usher know if you have questions, need assistance, or have a concern about health or safety.***

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Prelude "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" Jason W. Krug b 1957

Greeting

One: The grace of Jesus Christ be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

One: Bless God who forgives all our sins.

**Many: God's mercy endures forever.**

\*Hymn "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" UMH 269

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray,  
teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.

As thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win,  
O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.

As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,  
to die to self, and chiefly live by thy most holy word.

And through these days of penitence, and through thy passion-tide,  
yea, evermore in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past,  
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

**Gracious God,  
out of your love and mercy  
you breathed into dust the breath of life,  
creating us to serve you and neighbors.  
Call forth our prayers and acts of tenderness,  
and strengthen us to face our mortality,  
that we may reach with confidence for your mercy;  
in Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*\*Please stand in body or in spirit.*

Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline

Pastor: Dear Friend in Christ, every year we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Congregation: We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marks the repentance of this community.**

Pastor: I invite you, in the name of Christ, to observe a Holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; by works of love; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

**Congregation: To make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, we now bow before our Creator and Redeemer.**

Hymn (leaders will sing thru once; then please join in)

"Stay with Me"

**"Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray, watch and pray."**

Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and  
No - ho pū no - ho mai me ia'u ki - a'i a  
pray, watch and pray.  
pu - le kiai a pule.

Thanksgiving over the Ashes

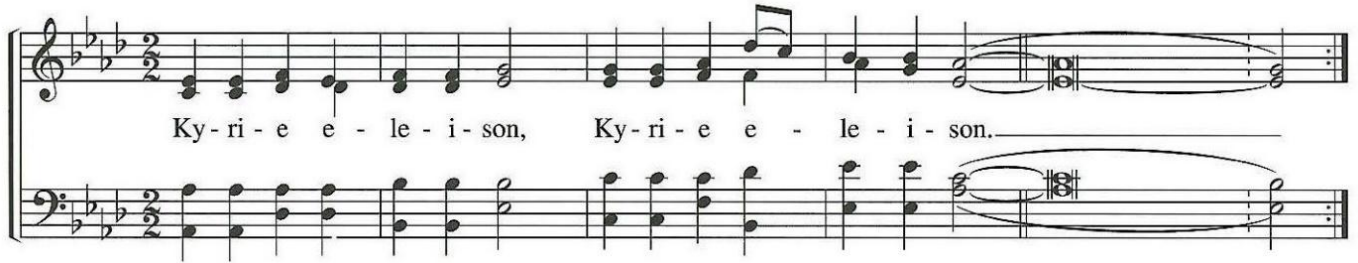
Imposition of Ashes: *Please come forward to receive ashes as a sign of our repentance.*  
(Silent Prayer during Imposition)

Pardon

Hymn (leaders will sing thru once; then please join in)

“Kyrie”

**“Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison”**



Epistle Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

\*Gospel Reading

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Message

Holy Communion

“The Great Thanksgiving”

UMH 13-14

Hymn (leaders will sing thru once; then please join in)

“My Soul is at Rest”

**“My soul is at rest in God alone, my salvation come from God.”**



Benediction

Postlude

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Worship Leaders: David Dagle, Ronna Davis, Earl Flagg, Chris Kerns, Byungmoo Lee, Debbie O’Driscoll, David Potts, Wesley Ringers, Worship Tech Team

Prayer of the Day – *Book of Common Worship*, Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993, p. 222.  
Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline – *The United Methodist Book of Worship* 322.  
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