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*Ash Wednesday February 14, 2024*

Greeting

Gathering Words

Pastor: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

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

OPENING PRAYER

O God, maker of everything and judge of all that you have made, from the dust of the earth you have formed us and from the dust of death you will raise us up.

By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit, that we may repent of our sins and lead lives worthy of your calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days (1,3 & 5) #269 THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 32:1-5 (NIV)

HYMN OF PREPARATION Just as I Am, Without One Plea (Verses 1,3,5) #357

THE GOSPEL LESSON Mark 9: 30-37 (NIV)

SPECIAL MUSIC Ashes Garry Christ

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

SHARING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY INVITATION:

God of grace and mercy, as we begin this holy journey of Lent, we remember that you wait with open arms and hopeful heart for us to repent and turn back toward you. With gratitude, let us share what we have out of love, as our hearts grow closer to God, and we shine with Christ’s glory. Let us offer our gifts to God today.

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY #95

\*DEDICATION OF OFFERING

O God, most merciful and gracious, of whose bounty we have all received, accept this offering of your people. Remember in your love those who have brought it and those for whom it is given. Follow it with your blessing that it may promote peace and goodwill among all peoples, and advance the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

SERMON First to Last to First Pastor Lyle

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

THANKSGIVING OVER ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be for 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 Lord. Amen.

\*IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Those who wish to receive the ashes shall come forward. We will sing Jesus, Remember Me (#488) while ashes are imposed.

\*CLOSING HYMN Lord, I Want to Be a Christian (Verses 1, 3 & 4) #402

BENEDICTION

May God give us inner peace, a closeness with Him. May we have clarity, to know what faces us. Father, give us heart, to love one another and you. Give us energy and focus, to do your work in this fragmented world. Amen.

God be at your end, and at your departing.