

People: May God, who has forgiven us now make us strong for these days ahead. May Jesus lead us, and we be found faithful to follow. May the Spirit drive us into the wilderness, burning away the chaff of our lives, and purifying our hearts for all to see and be blessed.

Leader: And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Mercy, Master, and Fire, Be with us and remain with us always!

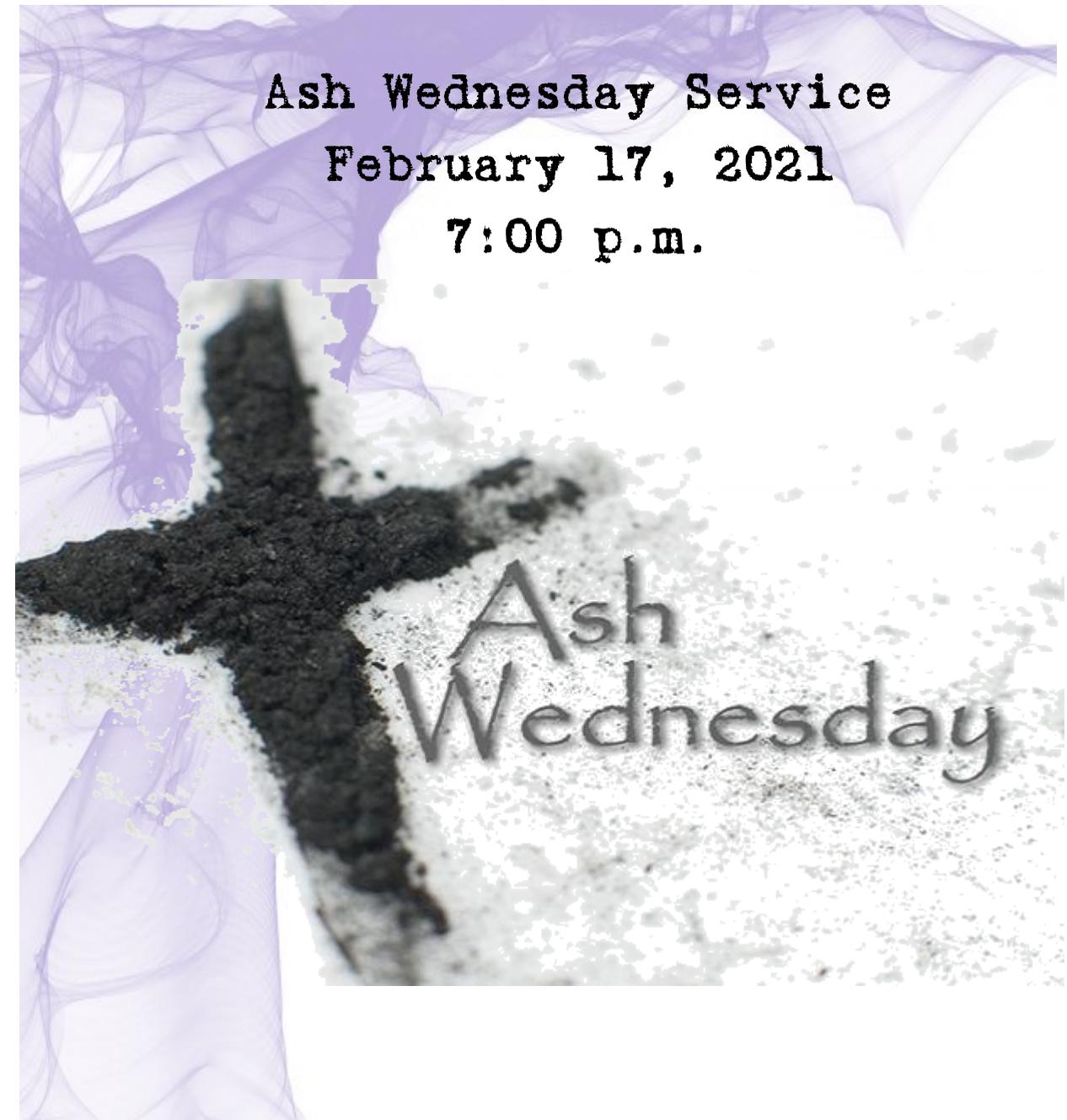
All: Amen!

The Passing of the Peace

Please greet one another in the peace of Christ.

Ash Wednesday marks the onset of the **Lent**, the 40-day period of fasting and abstinence. It is also known as the "Day of Ashes". So called because on that day at church the faithful have their foreheads marked with ashes in the shape of a cross.

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon work *lencten*, which means "spring." The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. The First Sunday in Lent describes Jesus' temptation by Satan; and the Sixth Sunday (Passion/Palm Sunday), Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent passion and death. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection. (From The United Methodist Book of Worship, pg. 320.)



Worship Service Sundays 10:00 a.m. **Sunday School** 9:00 a.m. **Office Hrs.** M-TH-F 9-2

Emmanuel Staff: Pastor San Kang, 1-540-546-2601; Temporary Music Ministry Pastor San Kang,

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ASH WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICE

Prelude

Greeting

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

People: And also with you.

Leader: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: God's mercy endures forever.

Prayer of Confession

Together

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. We pray all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

UMH 269

Scripture reading

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

respond in unison

Sermon

True Repentance in Front of the Cross

Rev. San Kang

Invitation to Lenten Discipline

Leader: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: The early Christians observed with great devotion. The days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty– day season of spiritual preparation. During this season, converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church. In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church,

People: to observe a holy Lent: by self–examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self–denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word. To make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel (bow) before our Creator and Redeemer.

Pastoral Prayer

Imposition of Ashes

(Mix the prepared ash and oil, and impose a cross on each other's foreheads)

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Hymn

Old Rugged Cross

UMH 504

Dismissal with Blessing

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

UMH 269

Verse 1

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.

Verse 2

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

Verse 3

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

Verse 4

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

Verse 5

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

The Old Rugged Cross

UMH 504

Verse 1

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

Verse 2

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary.

Verse 3

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
a wondrous beauty I see,
for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
to pardon and sanctify me.

Verse 4

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day to my home far away,
where his glory forever I'll share.

Refrain

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it someday for a crown.