

***READING OF THE GOSPEL**

Mathew 6:1-6, 16-21—CEB

6 “Be careful that you don’t practice your religion in front of people to draw their attention. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

2 “Whenever you give to the poor, don’t blow your trumpet as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets so that they may get praise from people. I assure you, that’s the only reward they’ll get. 3 But when you give to the poor, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing 4 so that you may give to the poor in secret. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you. 5 “When you pray, don’t be like hypocrites. They love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners so that people will see them. I assure you, that’s the only reward they’ll get. 6 But when you pray, go to your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you. (...) 16 “And when you fast, don’t put on a sad face like the hypocrites. They distort their faces so people will know they are fasting. I assure you that they have their reward. 17 When you fast, brush your hair and wash your face. 18 Then you won’t look like you are fasting to people, but only to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 19 “Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them. 20 Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust don’t eat them and where thieves don’t break in and steal them. 21 Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

REFLECTION

BLESSING & IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES - (In your forehead or hand)

TIME OF SILENCE

***CLOSING SONG**

“Bless the Lord my soul”

Video

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless his holy name.
 Bless the Lord, my soul, he rescue me from death.
 Bless the Lord my soul, and bless God’s holy name.
 Bless the Lord, my soul, he rescue me from death.

***BENEDICTION**

LEAVE IN SILENCE

Lent: A Time For Spiritual Renew
Ash Wednesday - March 6, 2019





Welcome to Wesley United Methodist Church

Rev. Lourdes Magalhães

“Order of Worship”

*Indicates those who are able, please stand. (**BOLD** all read together)

PRELUDE

GREETINGS

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

God's mercy endures for ever.

OPENING PRAYER

Father in Heaven, protect us in our struggle against evil.

As we begin the discipline of Lent, make this season holy by our self-denial.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*OPENING SONG

“Oh Lord Hear my Prayer”

Video

O Lord, hear my prayer.

O Lord, hear my prayer

When I call answer me

PRAYER OF REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS REQUEST LITANY

Leader: O, God, when we pause to look back at our lives on this Ash Wednesday, we realize that we have been weighed in the balance and found wanting.

We have neglected to do good when it was in our power to do so.

ALL: Lord, forgive us.

Leader: We, like believers of old, have pulled down your altars and erected idols crafted in our own image. We have turned our backs on the poor, choosing instead to criminalize poverty.

ALL: Lord, forgive us.

Leader: We have ignored the cries of the motherless, the fatherless, the widow and the widower choosing instead to turn children and the elderly into the new poor.

ALL: Lord, forgive us.

Leader: We have bankrupted the country with our greed and consumed more than our share of the world's riches. We have not dealt honorably with our enemies or our friends, and we have feigned a place in the company of the righteous.

ALL: Lord, forgive us.

Leader: Forgive us, O God, for turning sackcloth and ashes into a fashion statement by pursuing form without substance.

ALL: Father hear our prayer

Leader: Forgive us, O God, for the times we have neglected to provide our children and our world an authentic example of Christianity.

ALL: Father hear our prayer. As we begin the journey of Lent, wash us, O God and we shall be clean. Cleanse us, O Lord, and we shall be made whole. Amen.

READING THE OLD TESTAMENT

Joel 2:1-2; 12-17—CEB

Blow the horn in Zion; give a shout on my holy mountain! Let all the people of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming. It is near— a day of darkness and no light, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread out upon the mountains, a great and powerful army comes, unlike any that has ever come before them, or will come after them in centuries ahead.

*LET'S SING

“Bless the Lord my soul”

Video

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, he rescue me from death.

Bless the Lord my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, he rescue me from death.

*THE NEW TESTAMENT

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10—CEB

God is negotiating with you through us. We beg you as Christ's representatives, “Be reconciled to God!” God caused the one who didn't know sin to be sin for our sake so that through him we could become the righteousness of God. Since we work together with him, we are also begging you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² He says, *I listened to you at the right time, and I helped you on the day of salvation.* Look, now is the right time! Look, now is the day of salvation! We don't give anyone any reason to be offended about anything so that our ministry won't be criticized. ⁴ Instead, we commend ourselves as ministers of God in every way. We did this with our great endurance through problems, disasters, and stressful situations. We went through beatings, imprisonments, and riots. We experienced hard work, sleepless nights, and hunger. We displayed purity, knowledge, patience, and generosity. We served with the Holy Spirit, genuine love, telling the truth, and God's power. We carried the weapons of righteousness in our right hand and our left hand. We were treated with honor and dishonor and with verbal abuse and good evaluation. We were seen as both fake and real, as unknown and well known, as dying—and look, we are alive! We were seen as punished but not killed, as going through pain but always happy, as poor but making many rich, and as having nothing but owning everything.