

FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
407 Main Street
Farmingdale, NY 11735
ASH WEDNESDAY
March 2, 2022 7:00PM

SONG LEADER: Faustina Gyedu

PRELUDE "Near to the Heart of God"

Psalm 51:1-2

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to Your unfailing love;
according to Your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.
²Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.

GREETINGS

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

God of secret places, you know the hidden depths of our hearts and are acquainted with all our ways. You know when the face we present to the world is different from the reality inside us. Bring together our private conscience and public image. Open to us the treasurers of Your Word and make them the central value of our lives, that our ministry may be pleasing in Your sight and draw others to Your reconciling love. Amen.

HYMN "Come and Find the Quiet Center" 2128 (vs. 1,3)

SCRIPTURE READING Joel 2:1-2; 12-17

*GOSPEL READING Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

MEDITATION Pastor Ewoodzie

INVITATION TO LENTEN DISCIPLINE

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, to observe a holy

Lent:

by self-examination and repentance;
by prayer, fasting, and self-denial;
and by reading and meditation 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.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

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

RECEIVE THE ASHES

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

CONFESSION AND PARDON

May the Almighty and merciful God
Who desires not the death of a sinner
But that we turn from wickedness and live,
Accept your repentance, forgive your sins,
And restore you by the Holy Spirit to newness of life. Amen

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

CLOSING HYMN

"I Want to Be a Christian"

402 (vs. 1,4)

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go in peace, to love and serve God and your neighbor.

Response: **Thanks be to God**

POSTLUDE