

Gathering Song **TFWS#2128**
“Come and Find the Quiet Center”

Psalm 51:1-17 (NIV)

*For the director of music. A psalm of David.
When the prophet Nathan came to him
after David had committed adultery
with Bathsheba.*

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.

Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict
and justified when you judge.

Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time
my mother conceived me.
Yet you desired faithfulness
even in the womb;
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.
Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.

Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.
Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed,
O God, you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing
of your righteousness.
Open my lips, Lord,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
You do not delight in sacrifice,
or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.

Sermon
“A Heart of Repentance”
Pastor Peter Choi

Prayer of Confession
(Let us read this all together)
God of Compassion, we turn toward you now.
We rend our hearts.
Forgive our pride and forgive our insecurities.
Forgive our self-absorption
and forgive our self-destruction.
Forgive our doubts and
forgive our certainties.

Forgive our longing for attention,
and forgive our desire to hide.
Forgive each step we take away from you.

Silence

Create in us clean hearts, O God.
And renew right spirits within us.
Do not cast us away from your presence.
Do not take your Holy Spirit from us.
Restore to us the joy of our salvation and
grant willing spirits to sustain us. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news:
God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in love.
Through Christ, our sins are forgiven,
and we are made new.
As we confess and turn to God,
He restores us and fills us with peace.
In the name of Jesus Christ,
you are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Hymn **UMH #400**
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Blessing the Dust

As we come to this moment of ashes,
we remember:
We are dust, and to dust, we shall return.
Yet, in God's hands, this dust is not the end.
It is a symbol of our humanity, our fragility,
and our need for grace.
We bless this dust, for it is a reminder of
both our mortality and the hope
we have in Christ,

who conquered death and
offers us eternal life.
With the sign of ashes on our foreheads,
may we be marked as those who turn
to God in repentance and renewal.
In this season of Lent,
may the dust of our lives remind us that from
the dust we are created and to
the dust we return—but
we are never forgotten.
God's love is deeper than death,
and His grace is greater than our sin.
May the blessing of this dust be a reminder
of the transforming power of God's mercy.
Amen.

Thanksgiving over the Ashes

Gracious God, bless these ashes.
And bless each person who receives them
today. May they be marked with the
sign of Christ's love and forgiveness.
May this season of Lent
draw us closer to You.
And may we journey in faith,
trusting in Your mercy.
In the name of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Redeemer, we pray.
Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

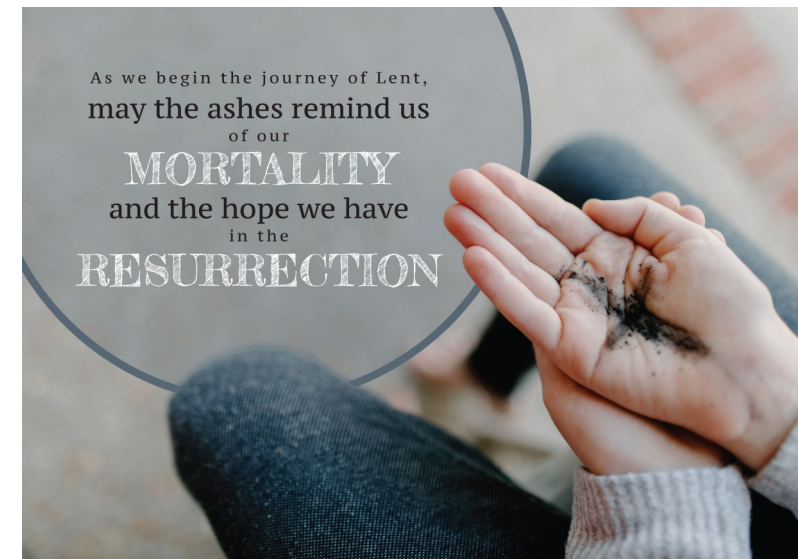
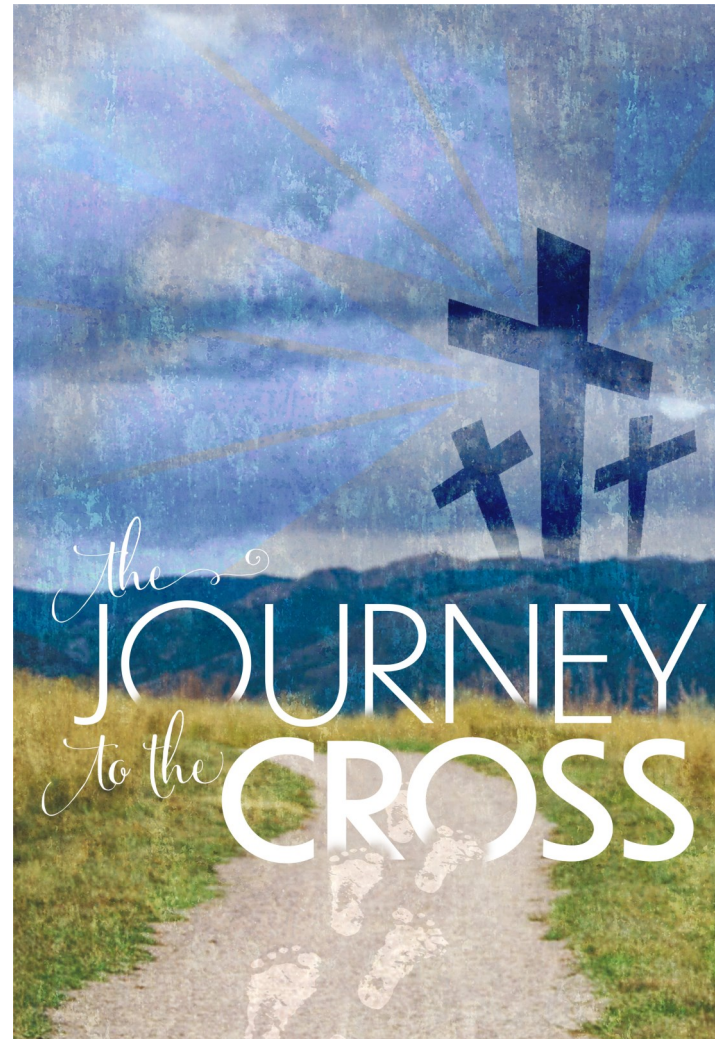
Hymn UMH 357
"Just as I Am, Without One Plea"

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

Closing Song TFWS 2222 "The Servant Song"

Dismissal with Blessing

*As you enter the sacred darkness of this
season, know that you are led by God's
grace, restored by God's spirit,
and held always in God's steadfast love.
Amen.*



**United Methodist Church
Minden, Nebraska
March 5, 2024
7:00 PM**

Video

Words of Welcome

Prayer of Releasing

Holy, holy, holy God, we thank You for Your presence. We rest in the promise of Your grace. Our minds are restless, and our hearts are distracted, pulled away from You. Help us open our hands and let go of these burdens: We release all we have done—whether right or wrong. We release what we should have done but left undone. We release what still waits to be done. We release our fear. We release our anxiety. We release our impatience. We release our pride—and our shame. Everything that keeps us from You, O God, we surrender.

(Silent Prayer)

Holy One, fill us now with the joy and peace of Your deep, abiding presence. We offer ourselves fully to You—our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.