

ORDER OF WORSHIP



GATHERING (In silence)

GREETING*

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

Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

Congregation: God's mercy endures for ever.

OPENING PRAYER* Ash Wednesday (UMH 353)

HYMN * Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days (UMH 269)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

SCRIPTURE LESSON 2 Corinthians 5:20 b–6:10

HYMN * Dear Lord and Father of Mankind (UMH 358)

GOSPEL LESSON* Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

SERMON "Authentic Faith"

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF 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 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.

A brief silence is kept, the congregation kneeling or bowed.

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.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES*

CONFESSION AND PARDON Psalm 51:1–17 (UMH 785)

All offer prayers of confession in silence.

The pastor then says:

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

HOLY COMMUNION

HYMN * Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior (UMH 351)

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING *

GOING FORTH * (In Silence)



GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME AND DEDICATE
THESE NEXT 40 DAYS IN SERVICE TO HIS WILL.

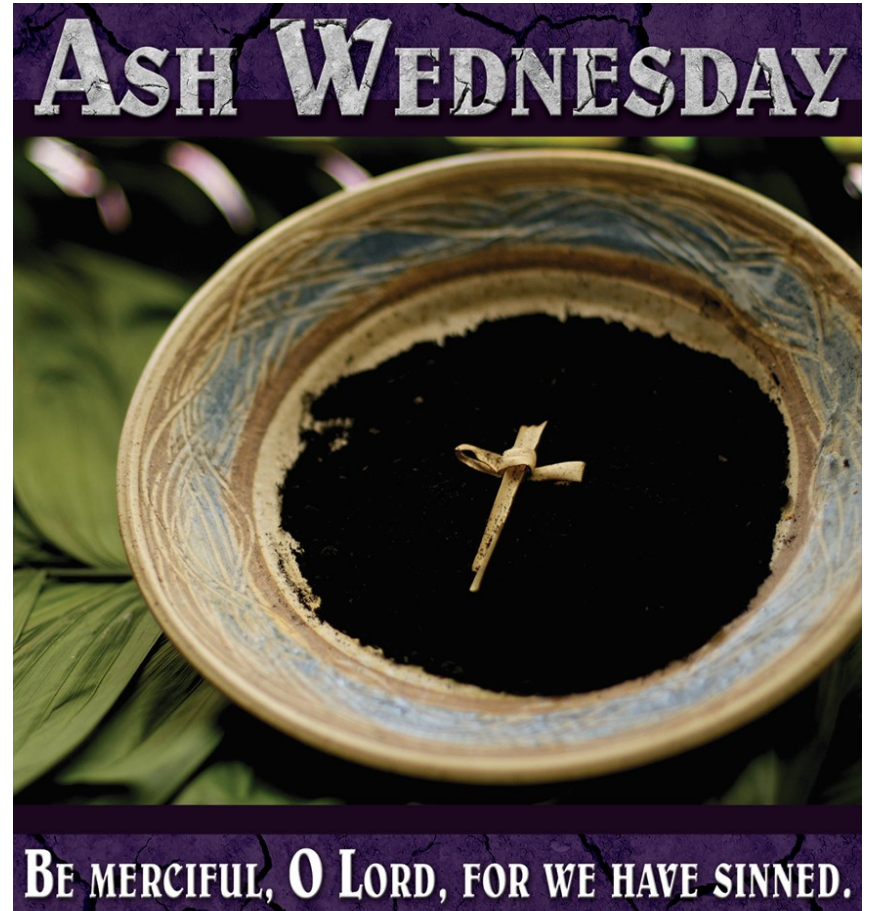
The Lord's Prayer

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 evil.
For thine is the Kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever.
Amen.



1030 Carlisle Road, York, Pa 17404
717 - 843-5261
zionumcyork.org

Rev. Joshua Rhone Lead Pastor



*Transforming Lives by
Connecting Hearts & Homes to Christ*



February 22, 2023
Ash Wednesday