



Ash Wednesday  
The Original Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Wrentham Centre, MA  
March 5, 2025; 7:30pm

*Order of Service*

PRELUDE “**Thee We Adore**” Victor C. Johnson  
(based on *Adoro te devote*, plainsong)

GREETING

Leader: Let us look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was waiting endured the cross.

**People: Jesus came to preach good news to the poor.**

Leader: To proclaim release to the captives.

**People: To offer recovery of sight to the blind.**

Leader: To liberate those who are oppressed.

**People: To proclaim the year of God’s favor to all.**

HYMN No. 72 *There’s A Wideness in God’s Mercy*

WELCOME

PRAYER *from 2 Corinthians 4:7-18*

Merciful God, as we enter into worship this night, let your light shine out in the darkness and grant us the gift to see your glory. Creator God, you have given us this gift of life as a treasure in jars of clay. Though afflicted and struck down, we do not despair. Redeeming God, by the rising of Christ from death to new life, raise us also and bring us into your presence. Sustaining God, let us not lose heart, but renew us day by day, looking not at what is seen, but to your eternal glory which is beyond all comparison. In your Holy Name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Joel 2:12-17 “Return to the Lord with All Your Heart”

ANTHEM “**Parce Domine**” arr. Robert LeBlanc

*Spare, Lord, spare your people: Be not angry with us forever.*

SCRIPTURE Matthew 6:1, 5-6, 19-21 “Treasures in Heaven”

A MOMENT OF MEDITATION

HYMN No. 281 *Spirit of the Living God*

INVITATION TO LENT

Leader: As disciples of Christ, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. We return to divine love through the practice of repentance, fasting, prayer, spiritual reading, and works of love and service. Let us enter Lent asking God to help us on our way.

PRAYER WITH THE ASHES

Leader: 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, that we may remember that it is by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

*You may receive ashes on the back of hand or forehead.*

Leader: We remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return.

**People: We shall turn away from our sins and believe in the good news.**

MOMENT OF SILENCE

RESPONSIVE PSALM *from Psalm 51*

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

**People: In your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions.**

Leader: You desire truth in our inward being.

**People: Teach us the wisdom in our secret heart.**

Leader: Wash us that we shall be whiter than snow.

**People: Let us hear joy and gladness again.**

Leader: Restore to us the joy of your salvation.

**People: Sustain us in a willing spirit.**

Leader: Do not cast us away from your presence.

**People: A broken and contrite heart, O God, you hold with love.**

## CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: Most holy and merciful God we confess to you.

**People: We have sinned in thought, word and deed.**

Leader: By what we have done and have left undone.

**People: We have not loved you with all our heart, mind and strength.**

Leader: We have not loved our neighbors as we ought.

**People: We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.**

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God.

**People: We have grieved your Holy Spirit.**

Leader: We confess our impatience and unfaithfulness.

**People: We confess our anger, envy and self-indulgence.**

Leader: We confess our love of worldly goods.

**People: We confess our negligence in prayer and worship.**

Leader: And we confess our disregard for the greater truth.

**People: Accept our repentance for the wrongs we have done.**

Leader: For turning from human need and suffering.

**People: For our indifference to injustice and violence.**

Leader: For our uncharitable thoughts towards our neighbors.

**People: And for our waste and pollution of your Holy Creation.**

Leader: Restore us O God with your Holy Spirit.

**People: Receive our prayers in your great mercy. Amen.**

## ANTHEM No. 198 “Jesus, Remember Me”

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*All are welcome to receive at the Lord's Table!*

### COMMUNION PRAYER

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

**Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!**

### CONSECRATION

LORD'S PRAYER *all versions are welcomed in the Spirit!*

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD

Leader: Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world:

**People: Have mercy on us.**

Leader: Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world:

**People: Have mercy on us.**

Leader: Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world:

**People: Grant us peace.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

*Take bread and the cup, return to your seats, eat and drink.*

PRAYER

**Thank you O Lord for refreshing us at your table. Increase our faith and send us out into the world to share all the good gifts of the Spirit. Amen.**

HYMN No. 265 *All Praise to Thee, My God*

DISMISSAL

Leader: Accomplish in us the work of your salvation, O God.

**People: That we may show forth your glory.**

Leader: By the cross and passion of our Savior,

**People: Bring us with all the saints to the joy of Christ's Resurrection.**

Leader: Let us go in the peace of God.

**People: Praise be to the Lord of life.**

POSTLUDE "Beauty for Ashes" Karen Green