

Matthew 6:1-6; 16-18

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.<sup>17</sup> But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face,<sup>18</sup> so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

*WELCOME TO  
ZION'S REFORMED CHURCH*

United Church of Christ

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**ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**260 MAIN STREET - GREENVILLE, PA**

**TELEPHONE: 724-588-6940**

**Rev. Dr. Tim Morrison**

**Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries**

\*If you are able, please stand

February 22, 2023

7:00 p.m.

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

Please note: Communion and the imposition of ashes will be served at the front of the sanctuary. If you are unable to come forward for Communion or for the imposition of ashes, please notify an usher, and they will be brought to you.

No offering will be taken during the service, but a basket is available in the back of the sanctuary for your gifts.

PRELUDE "He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought" McConnell

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Dr. Tim Morrison

Pastor: This is a night for contemplation.

**People: There is little rejoicing this night.**

Pastor: The time of learning and testing is at hand.

**People: Strengthen us and give us courage, O Lord, Amen.**

\*HYMN NO. 202 "O God, How We Have Wandered"

~please be seated~

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

<sup>1</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming. It is close at hand- <sup>2</sup>a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness. Like dawn spreading across the mountains a large and mighty army comes, such as never was in ancient times nor ever will be in ages to come.

Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." <sup>13</sup>Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. <sup>14</sup>Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing- grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your God. <sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly. <sup>16</sup>Gather the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together the elders, gather the children, those nursing at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her chamber. <sup>17</sup>Let the priests, who minister before the LORD, weep between the portico and the altar. Let them say, "Spare your people, LORD. Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION AND  
IMPOSITION OF ASHES

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this Holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE      "We Sing of God"      arr. by Lani Smith

RESPONSIVE READING OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Pastor: God spoke these words, saying,

**All: I am the Holy One your God.**

Pastor: You shall have no other gods before me.

**All: You shall not make for yourself a graven image.**

Pastor: You shall not take the name of God in vain.

**All: Remember the Sabbath day; keep it holy.**

Pastor: Honor your father and mother.

**All: You shall not kill.**

Pastor: You shall not commit adultery.

**All: You shall not steal.**

Pastor: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

**All: You shall not covet anything that is your neighbor's.**

TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

LITANY OF CONFESSION

Pastor: As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, study and works of love help us return to that love. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to love God and neighbor by confessing your sins and by asking God for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline. Let us pray:

**All: Most holy and merciful God; We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word and deed by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with all our heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven. Have mercy on us, O God.**

Pastor: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. Have mercy on us O God.

**All: We confess to you, O God all our past unfaithfulness; the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives.**

Pastor: We confess to you, O God our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people.

**All: We confess to you, O God our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.**

Pastor: We confess to you, O God our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in our daily life and work.

**All: We confess to you O God our negligence in prayer and worship and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.**

Pastor: Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done; for our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.

**All: Accept our repentance, O God, for all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us.**

Pastor: Accept our repentance, O God, for our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us.

**All: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.**

Pastor: Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM "Amazing Grace" Arr. by John Carter

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

**All: that we may show forth your glory.**

Pastor: By the cross and passion of our Savior,

**All: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection. Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE NO. 188 "Give Me a Clean Heart"

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The God whose children we are and whose creation we inhabit extends to us forgiveness that is thorough and gracious. This forgiveness reveals the character of God's love. Reflect upon it as you receive it throughout the Lenten season.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 (bulletin page 7)  
Matthew 6:1-6; 16-18 (back of bulletin)

MEDITATION "Sounds of the Passion"

PRAYERS OF THE DAY AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN NO. 332 "As We Gather at Your Table"