

First United Methodist Church  
610 E 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Miller, SD 57362

Pastor Teresa Whetsel                      Collin Otteson, Organist  
Pastor Brian Jones                          First Presbyterian Church  
Ash Wednesday                              February 17, 2021

*On this Ash Wednesday,  
"Create in me a clean heart, O God".*

**Welcome:**

**Call To Worship:**

One: God, we are dirty and need more than bleach for cleansing.

**Many: For you, Lord God, are able. Able to erase our wrongs. Scrub away our guilt. You are the only one able to wash us clean from our sins.**

One: God, you are merciful and compassionate. Your love is everlasting.

**Many: We have done wrong—repeatedly—and we continue to violate the commands of your word.**

One: We pause now, Lord, to confess our sins to you. You are faithful to forgive.

*(Silence for Reflection and Confession)*

*Prayer of Submission:* God, create in us clean hearts and renew your spirit within us. Please don't take your spirit away from us; restore unto us the joy of your salvation. Be willing, O God, to keep us in your tender care. Deliver us, Lord, and free us from ourselves – our flesh. Help us, Father, to use our lives as a testament to your transformational power. Allow your Holy Spirit to redirect us when we begin to wallow back to the former. We want to be used in your service. Here we are, Lord. We yield ourselves to you.

(Silence for Reflection and Submission)

**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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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.**

**Hymn**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy #121

**Psalm Reading:**

Psalm 51:1-17 #785

**Scripture Reading:**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

**Hymn:**

Give Me a Clean Heart #2133

**Message:**

Rev. Brian Jones      First Presbyterian Church  
"Humble"

**Introduction of the Ashes:**

**Thanksgiving over the Ashes:**

**Imposition of Ashes**

**Confession:**

One: God does not ask us to feel guilty, but to return to the Lord with all our hearts.

**Many: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.**

One: Christ calls us to be humble, to fast and pray in secret.

**Many: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.**

One: Examine your hearts. What burdens need to be lifted? What trespasses beg for forgiveness?

(Pray in silence)

One: Gracious God, our faith in you requires care, time, and effort. Yet we turn our attention to other things. Beckon us once again to return to you with all our hearts. Forgive us for loving you too little, and for neglecting to love our neighbor in your name. Today and throughout this season, we return our hearts to you, grateful for your mercies and secure in your love.

**Many: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a generous spirit.**

**All: AMEN**

**Words of Assurance:**

**Thank you for the promise that we can truly be made new again. Amen.**

**Offering:**

**Doxology:**

**Offertory Prayer:**

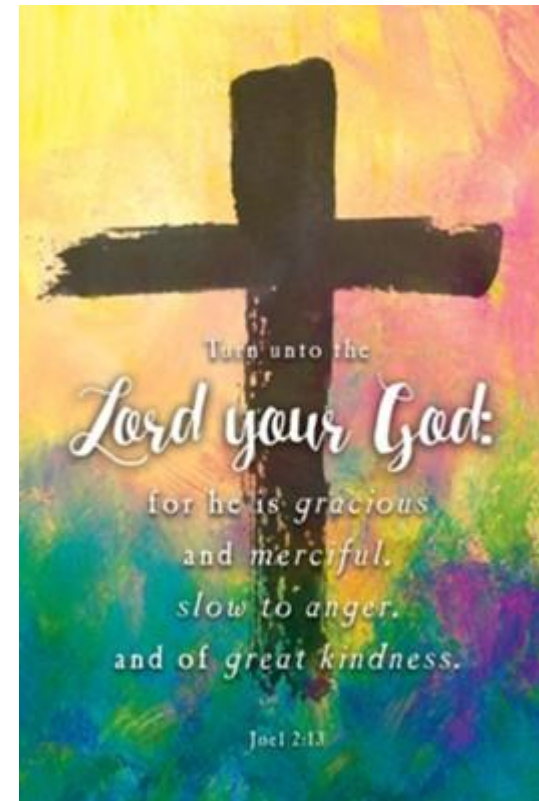
**Holy God, as we start the journey of Lent give us a will of repentance, a mind of sacrificial love, and a heart of gratitude. Indeed, you are "gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love..." We offer our gifts and our whole selves, asking that you might strengthen us for the journey, in the name of Christ, our rock and our redeemer in whose name we pray. Amen**

**Special Music:**

"Chainbreaker"  
Joe Fiala

**Benediction:**

**The prophet Joel invites us:  
"Return to the Lord, your God, for he is  
gracious and merciful".  
Welcome to Ash Wednesday worship.**



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