

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

1 MARCH 2017 - ASH WEDNESDAY

An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

“Remember, O mortal, that you are dust; and to dust you shall return.” - Genesis 3:19

*Please stand in body or spirit. Please silence cell phones.

GATHERING MUSIC

O Mortal, Mourn Your Sin

J. S. Bach

SILENT PRAYER AND PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

As you prepare for worship, take a few moments to bring yourself before God. Consider your present state of mind and preoccupations as well as your desire to meet God in this time.

CALL TO WORSHIP

John Cole

We come to worship God as the Lenten season begins, aware of our frailty and failings.

We come seeking God's mercy, acknowledging our mortality.

Tonight, we are marked with ashes, for the treasures of earth do not last.

Our treasure is in heaven, our heart's true home. Let us worship God!

SILENCE

TAIZE CHANT

Within Our Darkest Night

Jacques Berthier

With-in our dark-est night, you kin-dle the fire that nev-er dies a -
way, nev-er dies a - way. With-in our dark-est night, you kin - dle the
fire that nev-er dies a - way, nev-er dies a - way. With-in our dark-est

Choir sings first, then all repeat



PSALTER READING

Psalms 51 (from *The Message*)

Britt Cox

INVITATION TO LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Britt Cox

FEAST AND FAST

Alicia Reese

You will be invited to consider your Lenten fast and your Lenten feast as you engage two prayer stations.

THE STORY

Lydia Mulkey

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Our ancestors in the faith used ashes as a sign of repentance and a symbol of the uncertainty and fragility of human life. Like them, we have tasted the ashes of hopelessness. We have walked through the ashes of our loss and pain. We have stood knee-deep in the ashes of our brokenness. **God of our lives, out of the dust of creation, you have formed us and given us life. May these ashes not only be a sign of our repentance and death, but reminders that by the gift of your grace, in Jesus Christ our Redeemer, we are forever granted life with you. Amen.**

You are invited to receive ashes, our reminder that we are dust and to dust we shall return. The ashes are from the palm branches used last year on Palm Sunday.

ANTHEM

Call to Remembrance

Richard Farrant

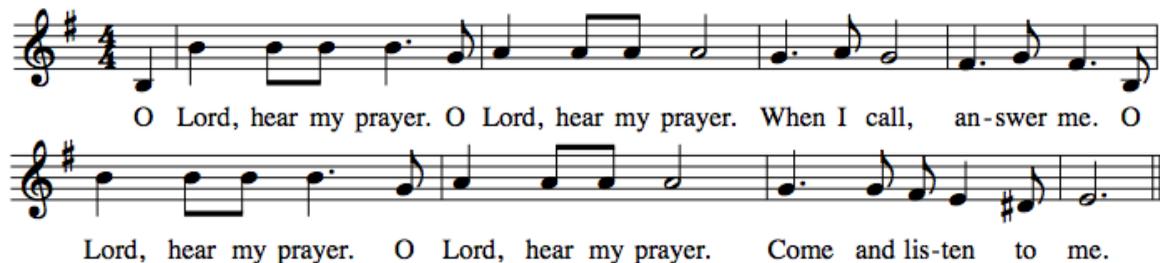
Call to remembrance, O Lord, thy tender mercy and thy loving kindness, which hath been ever of old. O remember not the sins and offenses of my youth, but according to thy mercy, think thou on me, O Lord, for thy goodness.

SILENCE

TAIZE CHANT

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Jacques Berthier



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

John Cole and Britt Cox

Let us pray for the needs of the world. When I say, "Lord in your mercy," please respond, "hear our prayer."

Holy God, as the season now turns to Lent, we pray that you will guide us in the days ahead. As we journey with Jesus Christ, give us an abiding sense of your presence, an unguarded sense of ourselves and an awareness of the needs of this world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we are marked with the ashes of the earth. We bring before you the frailty of human lives: the fragility of health, our fleeting accomplishments and plans, the changing nature of our relationships. Grant us patience in suffering and healing for all that gives us pain. Give us humility and hope. Bind us in covenantal love. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Just God, you call us to fight against injustice, to care for those in need, to lift the burdens that bind others. Increase our courage. Embolden us to work for freedom and peace. We pray for an end to hunger and homelessness, knowing that we are called to share our bread and open our doors. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we pray that your reign will come in fullness; that what is perishable be raised imperishable; that death itself will be swallowed up in victory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, **Amen.**

TAIZE CHANT

God to Enfold You

Iona Community

God to en - fold you, Christ to up - hold you, Spi - rit to
keep you in hea - ven's sight; so may God grace you, heal and em -
brace you, lead you through dark - ness in - to the light.

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BLESSING FOR THE JOURNEY

Lydia Mulkey

When you feel ready, please depart the Sanctuary in silence. Offering baskets are available at the front and back entrances. You are invited to contribute to the ministries of First United.

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