



NORTHWOOD

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

62 West Highway 61, Esko MN

Pastor Brian Cornell

bcornell@wnccumc.net

CCLI License # 122813

Ash Wednesday

February 26, 2020 ~6:00 pm

**Please stand where indicated if you are able.*

Prelude Music ~

*Responsive Greeting ~

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

P: And also with you.

L: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

P: God's mercy endures forever. AMEN.

*Hymn ~ "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" vs .1,3,4 UMH #269

*Unison Prayer ~

O God, maker of everything and judge of all that you have made, from the dust of the earth you have formed us and from the dust of death you would raise us up. By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit, that we may repent of our sins and lead lives worthy of your calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Scripture Lesson ~ Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

- ❖ What need or repentance, what cause for Grief have you given others and your God? What is your stumbling block? Write it on the slip of paper provided you.

*Hymn ~ "I Surrender All" vs. 1,2,3,4,5 UMH #354

- ❖ On the last verse of the hymn, we sing of the sacred flame. Come to the altar, lay your written 'stumbling block' on to the plate, and set it on fire. Then, return to your seat for the second reading.

Scripture Lesson ~ 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

* Hymn ~ "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" vs. 1,2,3,4 UMH #402

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 bow before our Creator and Redeemer.

(Brief Silence)

Thanksgiving Over the Ashes ~ Pastor Brian Cornell

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 ~ Pastor Brian Cornell

As the ashes are placed this will be said:
Pastor: Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.
Response: AMEN.

Gospel Lesson ~ Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Meditation ~ Pastor Brian Cornell

Unison Prayer of Confession ~

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. AMEN.

Scripture Lesson ~ Psalm 51:1-17

Special Music ~ "Create in Me A Clean Heart" Northwood Singers

Pardon ~ Pastor Brian Cornell

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.

Hyssop Cleansing ~

At this time, come to the back of the sanctuary and prepare to have your 'mark' washed away as we use a gentle hyssop cleaning tissue to remove the mark of your former sin as God's promise to make us clean and new is revealed. After having your mark removed, stay and remove the mark of the one following you. Remain in the rear of the sanctuary until all marks are removed, staying together as we sing our closing hymn.

*Hymn of Confession ~ Just As I Am, Without One Plea vs. 1,2,3,6 UMH#357

The Lord's Prayer ~

*Dismissal with Blessing ~

(Please Depart in Silence)