



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

*GATHERED TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE*



A S H  
W E D N E S D A Y

*Memento, homo, quia pulvis es, et in pulverem reverteris.*

Remember, human, that you are dust, and to dust you will return.

*Genesis 3:19*

**FEBRUARY 26TH, 2020**

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

# Welcome

## **Wi-Fi Password** Welcome!

Please silence your cell phones, but please check-in with our Church App and via social media.

## **For Parents and Children**

Activity Bags for children (teal, 2-5 years, navy blue, 6-10 years) hanging in back of sanctuary; professionally staffed nursery, infancy through 6 years old, available downstairs; Hearthside Parenting room, with diaper-changing station, privacy for nursing mothers, and livecast of worship, provided in church office (use side exit and follow the signs).

## **Live@FCC**

Sunday worship is live streamed. Please help support this ministry by sitting in the front two sections. The two sections behind the side aisles are reserved for our guests and for privacy. Children's time is not live streamed.

## **Sunday Brunch**

Please join us for brunch downstairs. Today's Leftover Sunday brunch: breakfast pizza, cornbread, mac and cheese, jambalaya, ham, fruit, & toaster items.

## **Interested in Membership?**

Contact Pastor Craig, call (309)-762-0787 or email [craig@fccmoline.org](mailto:craig@fccmoline.org).

## **Resources**

Ushers can provide large print bulletins and hearing amplifiers.

## **Open and Affirming: [fccmoline.org/ona](http://fccmoline.org/ona)**

We are an ONA church, covenanting with all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender expression or identity. All people are welcome to participate fully in the life of the church, including the rites, sacraments, and leadership of the congregation.

\* *Indicates when to stand in body or spirit*

## Today from the life of the church

In some monastic communities, monks go up to receive the ashes barefoot. Going barefoot is a joyous thing. It is good to feel the floor or the earth under your feet. It is good when the whole church is silent, filled with the hush of people walking without shoes. One wonders why we wear such things as shoes anyway. Prayer is so much more meaningful without them. It would be good to take them off in church all the time. But perhaps this might appear quixotic to those who have forgotten such very elementary satisfactions. Someone might catch cold at the mere thought of it.

Thomas Merton

You thumbed grit  
into my furrowed brow,  
marking me  
with the sign of mortality,  
the dust of last year's palms.  
The cross you traced  
seared, smudged skin,  
and I recalled  
other ashes  
etched  
into my heart  
by those who loved too little  
or not at all.

Elizabeth-Anne Vanek

I wail and moan as I think of death, and see that our human splendor created in God's image, now shapeless, uncomely and unattractive, is laid in the grave. Oh, the secret of this mystery befalling me! How did we come to be handed down to this corruption? How did death become our partner?

Byzantine Vespers

# Gathering of God's People

## PRELUDE

### \*GATHERING SONG

Kyrie

Kyrie eleison, have mercy. Christe eleison, have mercy. (Repeat)

Translation - *Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.* : Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

### \*GREETING AND WELCOME

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### \*PRAYER

Let us pray. **Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, no and forever. Amen.**

## Word

### SCRIPTURE

JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 51: Create In Me A Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spir-it within me. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spir-it within me. And cast me not a - way from thy presence, O Lord, and take not thy Ho-ly Spirit from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of thy sal - va - tion. And renew a right spir-it within me.

## SCRIPTURE

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20B- 6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.

For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see--we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL**

MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you O Christ.**

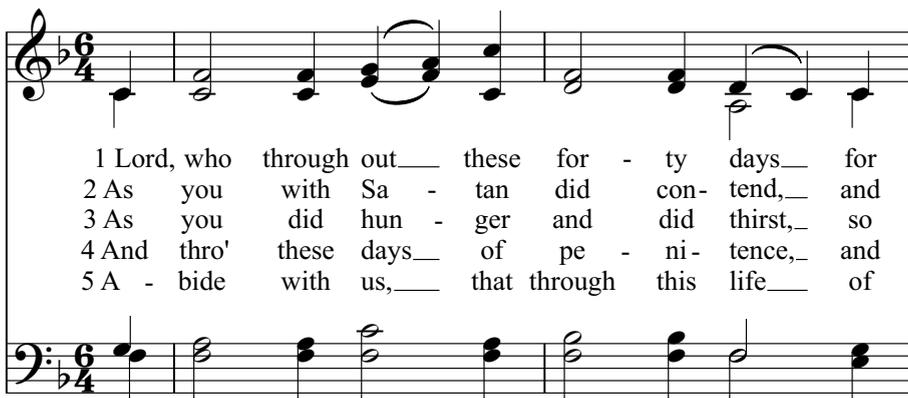
**HOMILY**

Rev. Craig JanMc-Mahon

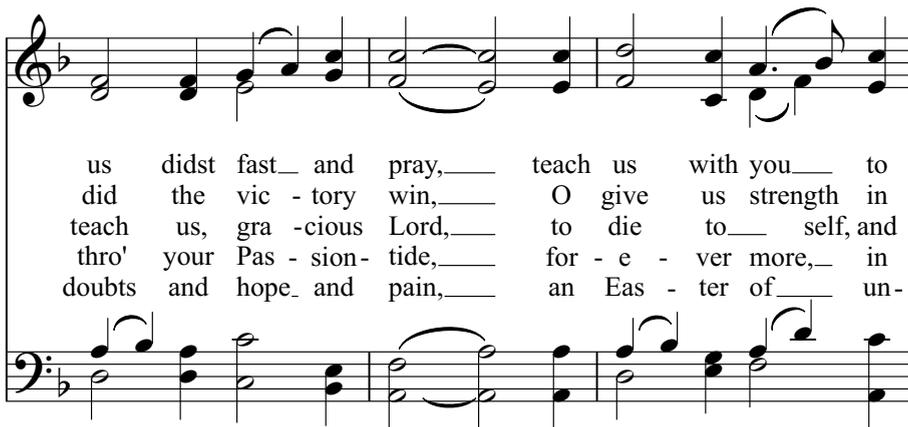
**\*HYMN**

*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days  
(Music on next page)*

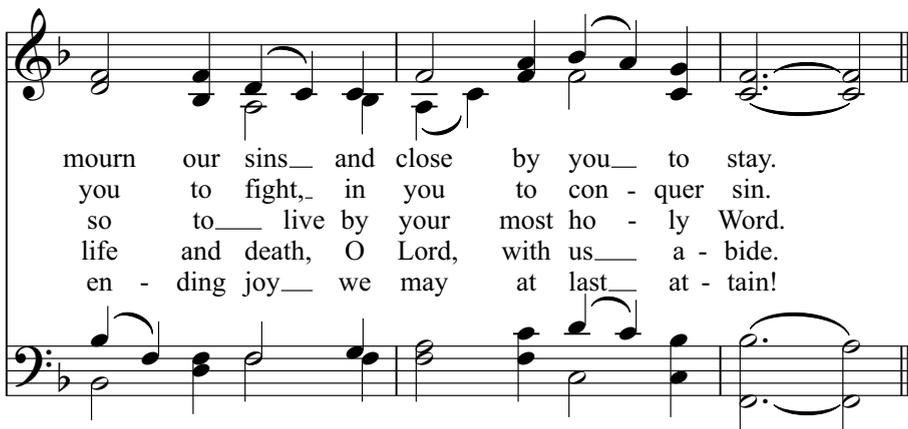
## Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days



1 Lord, who through out\_\_\_ these for - ty days\_\_\_ for  
2 As you with Sa - tan did con - tend,\_\_\_ and  
3 As you did hun - ger and did thirst,\_\_\_ so  
4 And thro' these days\_\_\_ of pe - ni - tence,\_\_\_ and  
5 A - bide with us,\_\_\_ that through this life\_\_\_ of



us didst fast\_\_\_ and pray,\_\_\_ teach us with you\_\_\_ to  
did the vic - tory win,\_\_\_ O give us strength in  
teach us, gra - cious Lord,\_\_\_ to die to\_\_\_ self, and  
thro' your Pas - sion - tide,\_\_\_ for - e - ver more,\_\_\_ in  
doubts and hope and pain,\_\_\_ an Eas - ter of\_\_\_ un -



mourn our sins\_\_\_ and close by you\_\_\_ to stay.  
you to fight,\_\_\_ in you to con - quer sin.  
so to\_\_\_ live by your most ho - ly Word.  
life and death, O Lord, with us\_\_\_ a - bide.  
en - ding joy\_\_\_ we may at last\_\_\_ at - tain!

# *Invitation to Lent*

## **INVITATION TO LENT**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

Most holy and merciful God, **we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, 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, 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.**

We have been shut our ears 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.**

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,  
and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship,  
and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than  
ourselves,

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our neglect of human need and suffering,  
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,  
and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,  
we confess to you

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our waste and pollution of your creation,  
and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

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

**Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great. Amen.**

## **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

### **RECEIVING THE ASHES**

*All are invited to come forward down the center aisle  
to be anointed with ashes, either on the forehead or on the back of the hand.  
Please return to your seats by the side aisles.*

### **PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

Let us pray. Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

***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.  
Amen.***

# *Responding to the Good News*

## **OFFERING OUR GIFTS**

INVITATION

OFFERTORY

*Guide My Wayfaring Feet* (arr. Ruth E. Schram)  
*Chancel Choir*

\*DOXOLOGY

***Grant us, Lord, the grace of giving,  
With a spirit large and free,  
That ourselves and all our living,  
We may offer unto Thee.***

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## *Sending in Mission*

**\*SENDING SONG**

*Jesus, Remember Me*  
*(Music on the next page)*

**\*BENEDICTION**

## Jesus, Remember Me

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The first system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef, and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The melody in the upper staff begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The bass line in the lower staff begins with a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2. The lyrics are printed below the upper staff.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The second system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef, and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The melody in the upper staff begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The bass line in the lower staff begins with a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2. The lyrics are printed below the upper staff.