



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

GATHERED TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE LEADER



FEBRUARY 17TH, 2021
ASH WEDNESDAY

Welcome

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. **Open and Affirming: fccmoline.org/ona**

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

For Parents and Children

Join us for virtual Sunday School!
fccmoline.org/virtual-Sunday-School

Contact Becca@fccmoline.org for other children and youth events!

FCC Live

Sunday worship is live streamed on Facebook Live and YouTube Live! Search for FCCMoline to connect with us, click like and subscribe to stay up to date!

Interested in Membership?

Contact Pastor Becky, call (309)-762-0787 or email becky.david@fccmoline.org.

Cover Art

Again and Again: A Lenten Refrain. A Sanctified Art LLC
(sanctifiedart.org)

Gathering of God's People

The service begins with the ringing of three bells.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We are invited

**Into the story,
into this place,
into this hour of worship.**

We are invited

**Into reflection,
into community,
into our own spiritual journeys.**

We are invited

**The broken and bruised,
the hopeful, the new,
the faithful, the doubting,
the wondering, the waiting.**

We are invited

Because God so loved.

So listen, trust the invitation, and bring your whole self.

All are invited here.

SETTLING SONG

Come As You Are, by Crowder, Maher, & Glover

***OPENING PRAYER**

Creator God, There is a rumbling in us that won't let go.
It stirs in us like the wind stirs leaves—inviting us to move, drawing us forth.
When we're quiet, we know that rumble is the Holy Spirit,
Dancing love awake in us.
So we're here. And we're still. And we're quiet.
And on this first day of Lent, we're asking you to draw near.
As we listen and pray on this most holy night, open the door for us to move. Invite
us in. Rumble us awake. Gratefully we pray, **Amen.**

** Indicates when to stand in body or spirit*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Ash Wednesday is a special day because it marks the start of something new. We are standing at the door of a journey into deeper faith, and God is inviting us in.

However, we know that we cannot grow deeper and be transformed without God's help.

So as we begin this season, we confess together, asking for God's participation in this new beginning. We are asking God to hold open the door,. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we know that you are near,
For you are always here, gathered among us, just a breath away.
And despite knowing your nearness, we still stumble over ourselves,
unsure of how to pray.

Bring our hearts into the room

So often we talk to you like a stranger,
Praying prayers of small talk about the weather and surface level concerns.
We keep genuine fear and doubt tucked into corners,
out of sight, out of mind.

Bring our hearts into the room

And so often we try to think our way to you,
As if we could use logic or our minds alone to explain your great unknown.
We forget what we knew as children; we forget how to feel our way to you.

Bring our hearts into the room

And too regularly, we limit our experience of you to one hours a Sunday,
Missing your constant invitation into the holiness all around us.
Forgive us. Guide us.
We are here, God. We want to begin again.

Bring our hearts into the room. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, whether you are standing at the door of a deeper faith journey,
Unsure of what comes next,
Or running your way through that threshold,
You are claimed, forgiven, and loved by God.

Again and again, we are forgiven.

Again and again, we are loved.

Again and again, we are invited in.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Amen.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Healer Of Our Every Ill, by Marty Haugen

Heal-er of our ev-ery ill, light of each to-mor-row, give us peace be -
yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.

Chorus-

Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow,
Give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond all sorrow.

Proclaiming the Good News

SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

‘Beware of practising 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.

SERMON

Rev. Becky David

Responding to the Good News

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 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.**

***PASSING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Imposition of Ashes

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(written by Thom Shuman)

Our ancestors in the faith
used ashes as a sign of our repentance,
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.
Today we are invited to embrace this reminder
that even in our darkest moments
we are beloved.

Let us Pray:

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 your gift of grace in Jesus Christ, our Redeemer,
we are granted life forever with you. Amen.

*Remember that you are God's beloved dust,
and to God's beloved dust you shall return.*

MUSIC

Beautiful Things, by Michael & Lisa Gungor

AT HOME ASHES INSTRUCTIONS

During the Ash Wednesday service we encourage you and your loved ones to mark the sacred cross of Lent on one another's forehead with the words "Remember you are God's beloved dust and to God's beloved dust you shall return"

Add just enough water to dirt or potting soil to make a paste. This will transfer easily from one person to another.

Sending in Mission

CLOSING PRAYER

We believe O God that you invite us:
To a life of faith,
A crowded table,
A messy church,
A deeper truth,
A resilient joy,
A place to belong,
A family among strangers,
A world that is just,
And a love that knows no bounds.
And we believe when we miss this call or ignore the invite,
That you O God, invite us again.
Thanks be to you, O God. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG**

*Canticle of the Turning
(music on the next page)*

***BENEDICTION**

As you leave this space,
May your mouth speak of God's goodness.
May your arms hold those in need.
May your feet walk toward justice.
May your heart trust its worth.
May your soul dance in god's grace.
And may this be your rhythm -
Again and again and again,
Until God's promised day.
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved and Love itself,
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace. Amen

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the God of my heart is
2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in
3 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re - mem - ber who holds us



great, and my spir - it sings of the won - drous things that you
me, and your mer - cy will last from the depths of the past to the
fast: God's mer - cy must de - liv - er us from the



bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your
end of the age to be. Your ver - y name puts the
con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This sav - ing word that our



ser - vant's plight, and my weak - ness you did not spurn, so from
proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will
fore - bears heard is the prom - ise which holds us bound, till the



east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe a -



way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

SERVING TODAY

Musicians

Maureen Holmes

Mason Moss

Liturgist

Pastor Michael Swartz

FCCLive

Bill Henning

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH STAFF

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