



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF FARMINGTON

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship Service

March 2, 2022

PRELUDE Harvey Kahl

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Pastor Anthony

Hymn Take Time to Be Holy #395 Harvey Kahl

CALL TO CONSECRATION Pastor Anthony

Leader: Have Mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

People: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Leader: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

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

(Psalm 51:1, 6, 7 & 10 NRSV)

OPENING PRAYER (In Unison) Pastor Bea

Almighty and everlasting God, you love everything you have created and forgive all who come humbly before you. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that we, acknowledging our mistakes, may find peace and purpose anew. God of compassion, pour out your mercy and grace upon us, that having received these gifts, we may share them with those around us. Hear our prayer, Oh Lord, Amen. (Adapted from a prayer by Rev. Neil Davis, Jr.)

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 6:16-18 Pastor Bea

Leader: The word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God

HYMN Come and Find the Quiet Center #2128 Harvey Kahl

THE SERMON Fasting Fortifies the Faithful Pastor Anthony

OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION Pastor Bea

(YOUR CONTINUED PRAYERFUL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED. HERE ARE THE WAYS TO GIVE.)

1. You may mail-in or drop-off a contribution to our address: **33112 Grand River, Farmington, 48336**
2. You may use PayPal and direct your contribution to: **First United Methodist Church of Farmington**
3. You may text to give by texting: **fumcgive** to **44321** and follow the prompts.

OFFERTORY MUSIC Harvey Kahl

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE Rev. Anthony R. Hood

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, we have assembled this evening to mark the beginning of Lenten season. The early Church observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection. 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 prepared themselves 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, restoring them to full 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 to observe a Holy

Lent through self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, reading, and meditating on scripture.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Pastor Bea

Help us, awesome God, to be honest with ourselves and with you. We want to change our wasteful, destructive ways. We want to be rid of the evil the weighs us down, the guilt that crushes our spirits. Have mercy on us as we remember and confess our sins in these moments of silent struggle. Purge us of all the baggage from our past. Wash us in the flowing streams of your forgiving love. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and fill our lives with a new and right spirit. Sustain our hearts day by day in renewed focus on your steadfast love. (Adapted from Lavon Bayler's Gathered by Love)

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

Pastor Anthony

God of grace and mercy consecrate these ashes and those who will receive them, that they may be an outward sign of our inward transformation. Mark our hearts as well as our heads, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious love that we have received the gift of everlasting life through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen**

INVITATION FOR IMPOSITION OF ASHES:

Pastor Anthony & Pastor Bea

SENDING FORTH: **YOU ARE A BLESSING FROM GOD. NOW GO BE A BLESSING!**

POSTLUDE

Harvey Kahl