

LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 17, 2021 Ash Wednesday

“At Home Worship”

(Create a quiet, reflective atmosphere for this special service by lighting a candle as you begin.)

Call to Worship

Return to God with all your heart, mind, and soul.

I turn my heart to you, O God.

Return to this season of Lent – a season of sacrifice and prayer, reflection and introspection.

I turn my thoughts to you, O God.

Return to yourself, and to the treasure that is Christ living within you.

I turn my soul to you, O God.

Turning and returning, with heart, mind, and soul wide open, worship the God of love on this holy day.

Opening Prayer Change our hearts, O God of this holy time. Renew us with your Spirit of love and grace. Wash away the dust and ashes that cloud our vision and burden our lives. Guide us back to you, that we may refocus once more and rest anew in the treasure of your love. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading “Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart...” Read Joel 2.1-2, 12-13

Time of Reflection (insert)

Prayer of Confession Spirit of forgiveness and grace, you

know when we have failed to hear your Word and live your love. Forgive us, we pray. Open our ears to hear and our hearts to love. Guide us into unity and selflessness that we might in these forty days be faithful disciples of your Son. In trust and gratitude, we pray. Amen.

Time of Silent Confession *What is it that you wish to offer to God as confession so that you may begin this season of Lent cleansed and forgiven?*

Words of Assurance Only as we face darkness and ashes can we know the true source of light and life. Even in the dark night of our souls, we are not alone. Call on the One who hears and forgives and accompanies us on this journey to hope, knowing that you are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ.

Epistle Reading “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”
Read 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Time of Reflection (insert)

GOSPEL READING “...store up for yourselves treasures in heaven” Read Matthew 6:1-6, 19-21

Time of Reflection (insert)

Receiving the Ashes of Lent Place the ashes on your forehead or back of your hand, saying these words: *I remember that I am dust and to dust I shall return.*

Prayer Holy God, today, as the faithful people of God around the world, we begin the season of holiness and reflection. We come to center our hearts on you, returning to you and trusting in your mercy and compassion. You bid us receive the gift of your blessing as we receive the ashes that remind us of our many needs - the need to turn back to you, the need to refocus our hearts and lives, the need to receive forgiveness, and the need to offer forgiveness. Trusting that you know our every need, hear us now as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us....

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Benediction With the ash of repentance, we have entered Lent. With contrite hearts, we remember the sacrifice of Jesus for each of us. Please, God, bless me with a holy journey in these forty days of reflection. Create within me a clean heart as I commit myself to you once again.

A Journey  Through Lent

ASH
Wednesday
RETURN
TO THE
LORD
YOUR
GOD

Lisbon United Methodist Church
welcomes, nurtures, and serves
all people
with the love of Christ.