

FRIENDS
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

An Open & Affirming Congregation



Ash Wednesday
February 17, 2021
6:30pm
Online

WELCOME

We are honored that you have chosen to spend your Sunday morning with us. Friends Congregational Church is an **Open & Affirming** congregation of the United Church of Christ. We welcome all people into the full life and ministry of our church—people of all ages, races, sexual orientations, gender identities, and abilities. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (BASED ON GENESIS 2:7, 3:19; PSALM 104:29-30; JOHN 1:18)

One: Friends and neighbors, in the middle of this season of Covid-19,
we pause to observe Ash Wednesday together as a faith community.

***All:* We remember that God made us from fragile, blessed dust
and breathes through us the breath of life and love.**

One: From dust we are created in God's image
and to God's good dust we shall return.

***All:* With dust and oil we claim the mark of God's beloved creature.**

One: Today we begin our 40-day Lenten journey
to discover who we are created to be as God's beloved.

***All:* In daily practices of prayer and service
we will embark upon this Lenten journey.**

One: We follow Jesus, God's Beloved Child,
bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh
in whom we see God's image most clearly.

***All:* So come, let us pray for strength and imagination
to follow Jesus wherever he will lead us this Lent.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING— Isaiah 29:9-10, 13-16 (NRSV)

Stupefy yourselves and be in a stupor,
blind yourselves and be blind!

Be drunk, but not from wine;
stagger, but not from strong drink!

For the Lord has poured out upon you
a spirit of deep sleep;

he has closed your eyes, you prophets,
and covered your heads, you seers.

The Lord said:

Because these people draw near with their mouths
and honor me with their lips,
while their hearts are far from me,

and their worship of me is a human commandment learned by rote;
so I will again do
amazing things with this people,
shocking and amazing.

The wisdom of their wise shall perish,
and the discernment of the discerning shall be hidden.
Ha! You who hide a plan too deep for the Lord,
whose deeds are in the dark,
and who say, "Who sees us? Who knows us?"
You turn things upside down!
Shall the potter be regarded as the clay?
Shall the thing made say of its maker,
"He did not make me";
or the thing formed say of the one who formed it,
"He has no understanding"?

EPISTLE READING— James 1:12-16 (NRSV)

Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. No one, when tempted, should say, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. But one is tempted by one's own desire, being lured and enticed by it; then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and that sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death. Do not be deceived, my beloved.

GOSPEL READING— Matthew 6:7-13 (CEB)

"When you pray, don't pour out a flood of empty words, as the Gentiles do. They think that by saying many words they'll be heard. Don't be like them, because your Father knows what you need before you ask. Pray like this:

Our Father who is in heaven,
uphold the holiness of your name.
Bring in your kingdom
so that your will is done on earth as it's done in heaven.
Give us the bread we need for today.
Forgive us for the ways we have wronged you,
just as we also forgive those who have wronged us.
And don't lead us into temptation,
but rescue us from the evil one.

HYMN OF RESPONSE – Spirit of the Living God

F Gm D Gm F Dm C F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me;

The first system of musical notation for the hymn. It consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff: F, Gm, D, Gm, F, Dm, C, and F.

F Gm D Gm F Bb/C C7 F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall' a - fresh on me.

The second system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. Chord symbols are: F, Gm, D, Gm, F, Bb/C, C7, and F.

Bb F G7 C

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

The third system of musical notation. The melody features a more complex rhythmic pattern with eighth and sixteenth notes. Chord symbols are: Bb, F, G7, and C.

F Gm D Gm F Dm C7 F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

The fourth system of musical notation, which concludes the hymn. Chord symbols are: F, Gm, D, Gm, F, Dm, C7, and F.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE 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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

PRAYER OF ADORATION

LITANY OF CONFESSION (*responsive*)

One: Lord, you have shown us your ways of compassion and justice.
Forgive us for being so caught up in our own lives.
Forgive us for not having eyes to see
and closing them when we don't want to see.
Forgive us for not having ears to hear
and covering them when we don't want to hear.
Forgive us for not knowing you, seeking you, and following you.

***All:* Revive your church and your community.
Renew us and remake us in your image.
Renew us so that we may point one another and all
to a new heaven and a new earth,
to your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.**

One: Jesus, you modeled sacrifice and love for neighbor.
Deliver us from our anemic and self-focused faith practices.
Deliver us from narcissism in our worship practices
that center on us and not others.
Deliver us from fear that keeps us from taking risks
in order to serve our neighbor.
Deliver us from apathy in our own hearts
toward those at the margins.

***All:* Revive your church and your community.
Renew us and remake us in your image.
Renew us so that we may point one another and all
to a new heaven and a new earth,
to your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.**

One: Holy Spirit, you promise to root, strengthen, and guide us.
Fill us with courage to speak out
and speak up when we feel weak.
Fill us with assurance that you are working
in ways we can't always see.
Fill us with power to act and love
and to be the church you are making us to be.

***All:* Revive your church and your community.
Renew us and remake us in your image.
Renew us so that we may point one another and all
to a new heaven and a new earth,
to your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.**

One: Forgive us the words we failed to speak
and the words we should not have spoken.
Forgive us the good we failed to do
and the evil we have done.

Forgive us the love we refused to offer
and the grudges we have held on to.

All: Create in us clean hearts, O God.
Forgive our past failures, amend who we are,
and direct whom you would have us become. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE

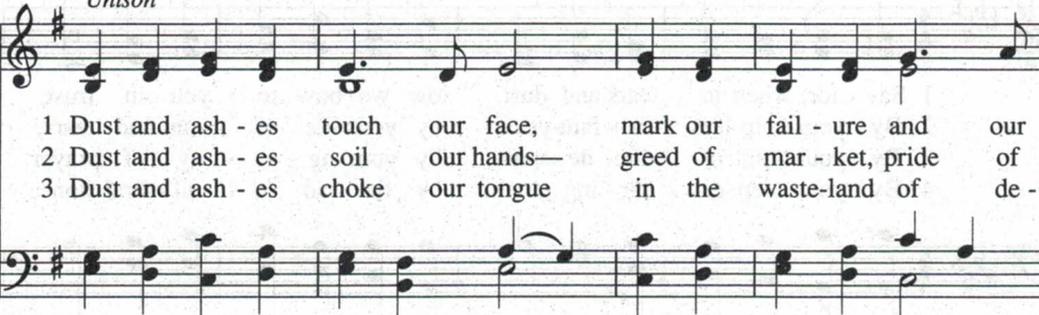
One: The Peace of Christ be with you all.

***Many:* And also with you!**

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

HYMN FOR THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES — Dust and Ashes

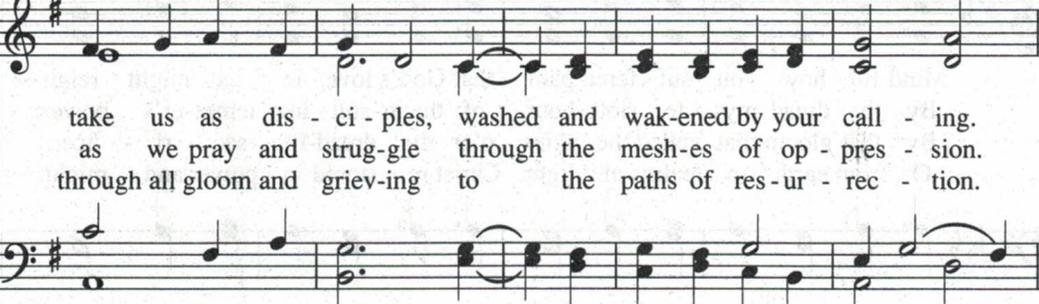
Unison



1 Dust and ash - es touch our face, mark our fail - ure and our
2 Dust and ash - es soil our hands— greed of mar - ket, pride of
3 Dust and ash - es choke our tongue in the waste-land of de -

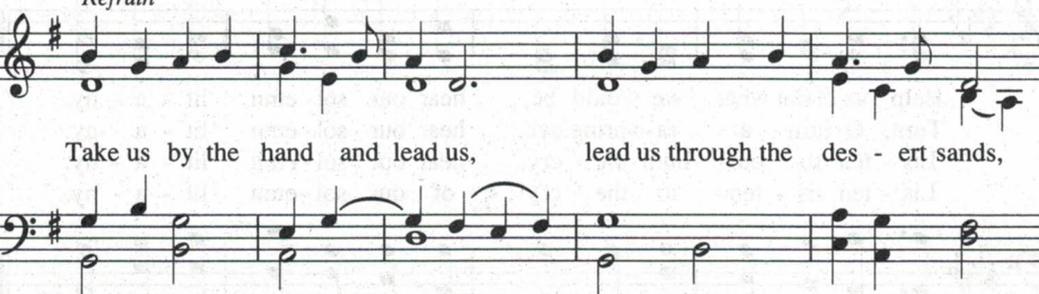


fall - ing. Ho-ly Spir-it, come, walk with us to - mor-row,
na - tion. Ho-ly Spir-it, come, walk with us to - mor-row
pres - sion. Ho-ly Spir-it, come, walk with us to - mor-row

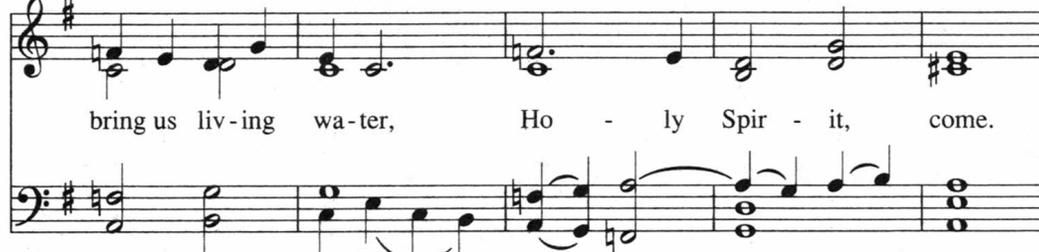


take us as dis - ci - ples, washed and wak-ened by your call - ing.
as we pray and strug-ple through the mesh-es of op - pres - sion.
through all gloom and griev-ing to the paths of res - ur - rec - tion.

Refrain



Take us by the hand and lead us, lead us through the des - ert sands,



bring us liv - ing wa - ter, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

BENEDICTION

FIRST TIME AT FRIENDS? If you are visiting us today, please let us know. You will find an Online Visitor Card at <https://www.friends-ucc.org/your-first-visit>. We are so glad you are here, so please let us know if there is anything we can do for you.

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our Vision:

Rooted in the way of Christ, we strive to be a community of God's radical inclusion and extravagant welcome.

Our Mission:

United by the example of Jesus, we live faithfully, love limitlessly, and serve boldly.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Online at 11:00am

FRIENDS CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon, *Senior Pastor*
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