







Scripture *Psalm 51:7–12*

Hymn *Just As I Am*  
(verse 2)

488

Meditation on the Water

Prayer

Sharing the Water

***As the basin is passed to you, please clean your neighbor's hand with the cloth symbolizing the gift of forgiveness and cleansing in Jesus Christ. We clean our neighbor's hand to show our participation in conveying God's grace to others.***

Scripture *Psalm 51:14–19*

Hymn *Just As I Am*  
(verse 3)

488

Meditation on the Bread and the Cup

Prayer

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

***As you come to receive the bread and the cup, consider that Jesus Christ is the sacrifice that surpasses all others and who atones for our sins and prompts us to declare the greatness of God.***

Scripture *Revelation 21:3–5a*

\* Closing Hymn *Just As I Am*  
(verse 4)

488

\* Benediction

\* Postlude

***\* You are invited to stand if you are able***

# Ash Wednesday



Lent is a traditional period in which the Christians prepare for Easter (the practice of fasting and observing spiritual disciplines began in the early Church among people who were anticipating being baptized on Easter Sunday). “Ash Wednesday” was not added to Lent until after the seventh century. The imposition of ashes on the head was for special public penitents; when this discipline fell into disuse in the ninth century, outward signs of penance became the norm for the entire congregation.

Services with the symbolism of ashes and the themes of Lent have received renewed appreciation by many Protestant Christians since the Second World War. In our service tonight the historical observance of imposing ashes has been altered so that it accords with the traditions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Jesus calls us not to penance but to repentance. Repentance means not only to regret but more importantly to reform (and not just for a forty-day period). To repent is to turn, to turn away from sin and turn toward God.

As we mark this Lenten season, let us conduct ourselves not only with ritualistic signs of piety but as Christ’s ambassadors. This Lent we pray for the Spirit to dwell in our hearts so that God’s light may shine through us into a dark world.