



# HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## ASH WEDNESDAY

### THE FIRST DAY OF LENT

MARCH 2, 2022 – NOON SERVICE

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Remember that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return.

That we are dust is a reminder that our lives are fragile, and that the lives and hearts of those around us are as well. We then must tread lightly and walk joyously, spreading love for hate, peace for rancor, and healing for a world that is all too wounded. That we are dust is a reminder that in our material existence there is a limitedness, a boundedness that leaves the reality of who we are all too often far from the people that we wish to be. We are left needing the help of our friends, family, and indeed our God to press forward. This simple yet profound common reality of our existence is the call to freedom and to patience, peace, and a humility within ourselves, which can reconcile who we are in reality with whom God has created us to be.

That unto dust we will return, though, is the challenge. Now is the time to cast off the darkness of our own hearts. Now is the time to rid ourselves of the chains, addictions, and habits which hold us bound. Now is the time to repair those wounded friendships, and to remember once again the joy that we had in them. The time is now because we are returning to dust, and there is no other time. Life is far too short, our time to love far too brief, our joy always far too limited. Now is the time; there is no other moment. The spring, which can never be held back, is coming. Remember that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return.

—Adapted from the writings of the Rev. Michael Rogers, S.J.



# ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREACHING – LESLIE WILLIAMS  
LITURGIST – THE REVEREND MIKAH HUDSON  
CHOIRMASTER & ORGANIST – RICHARD PHILLIPS

\*Congregation please stand. Words in bold are spoken or sung by the congregation.

*Serving as Lay Reader* – Reggie Holder  
*Serving as Cantor* – David Busby  
*Serving as Verger* – Brian Bellenger

Congregants are asked to wear a face mask throughout the service to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

## \*SILENT PROCESSION

## \*GREETING

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.***  
*Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins. **God's mercy endures forever.***

## \*COLLECT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

*O God, maker of everything and judge of all that you have made, from the dust of the earth you have formed us and from the dust of death you would raise us up. By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit, that we may repent of our sins and lead lives worthy of your calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.***

## \*HYMN 340

**Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy**  
*Verses 1, 2, and 4*

RESTORATION

## FIRST LESSON

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17  
*May these words reveal Christ to us. **Thanks be to God.***

## PSALTER 824

Psalm 103:1-14  
*Response Setting: Richard Proulx*

## EPISTLE LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10  
*May these words reveal Christ to us. **Thanks be to God.***

## \*GOSPEL LESSON

*The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

The Lesson

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

*The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

## THE HOMILY

Leslie Williams

## INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

*Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: the early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and 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 were prepared 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, and restored to 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, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word. To make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now bow before our Creator and Redeemer.*

## SILENT CONFESSION

### THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

*The Lord be with you. And also with you.*

*Let us pray: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.*

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Psalm 51

Setting: Plainsong Tone IVe

## WORDS OF PARDON

*Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### THE LORD'S PRAYER 895

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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.**

\*HYMN (See facing page)

Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes

BEACH SPRING

\*BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

\*SILENT PROCESSION

**The service ends in silence. Please remain in silence until you exit the Sanctuary.**

# Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes

1. \*Sun-day's palms are Wednes-day's ash - es as an - oth - er Lent be -  
 2. We have failed to love our neigh - bors, their of - fenc - es to for -  
 3. We are hast - y to judge oth - ers, blind to proof of hu - man

gins; thus we kneel be - fore our Mak - er in con - tri - tion for our  
 give, have not lis - tened to their trou - bles, nor have cared just how they  
 need; and our lack of un - der - stand - ing dem - on - strates our in - ner

sins. We have marred bap - tis - mal pledg - es, in re - bel - lion gone a -  
 live, we are jeal - ous, proud, im - pa - tient, lov - ing o - ver - much our  
 greed; we have wast - ed earth's re - sourc - es; want and suf - fering we've ig -

stray; now, re - turn - ing, seek for - give - ness; grant us par - don, God, this day!  
 things; may the yield - ing of our fail - ings be our Len - ten of - fer - ings.  
 nored; come and cleanse us, then re - store us; make new hearts with - in us, Lord!

*\*The first line of the hymn recalls the custom of burning remaining palm leaves of the previous year to form the ashes for this observance.*

WORDS: Rae E. Whitney

MUSIC: Attr. to B. F. White; harm. by Ronald A. Nelson

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BEACH SPRING

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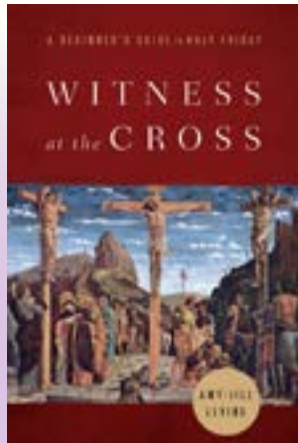
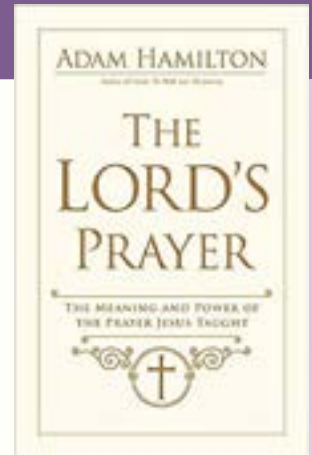
# LENTEN STUDIES

at Highlands United Methodist Church

*Join a small group book study this Lenten season.*

## Adult Sunday School at 9:30 AM

*The Lord's Prayer* by Adam Hamilton  
Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall  
Led by Janet Holt and Matthew Penfield

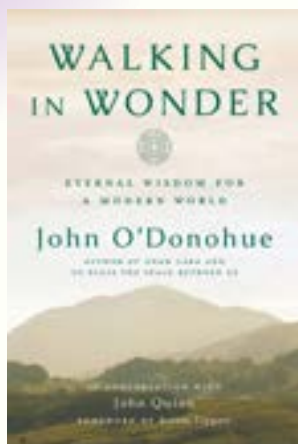
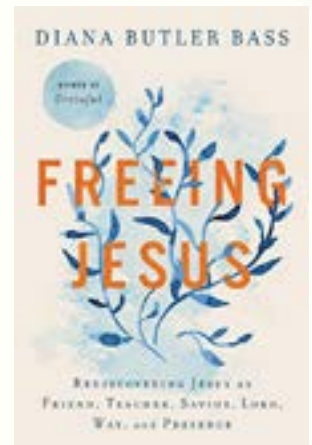


## Tuesdays at 7:30 AM

*Witness at the Cross* by Amy-Jill Levine  
Led by Michael Lalor in Room E209  
*Place yourself as a witness of the cross and determine what your own testimony will be.*

## Thursdays at Noon

*Freeing Jesus* by Diana Butler Bass  
Led by Mikah Hudson in Room E 209  
*Rediscovering Jesus as friend, teacher, savior, lord, way, and presence.*



## Sundays at 4 PM

*Walking in Wonder* by John O'Donohue  
Led by Reggie Holder in the Chancel  
*Eternal wisdom for a modern world.*



In  
remembrance  
of me...

# LENTEN MIDDAY COMMUNION

**Tuesdays at Noon  
Lunch to follow in the  
Fellowship Hall (\$10)**



Highlands United Methodist Church  
1045 20th Street South  
Birmingham, AL 35205  
[www.highlandsumc.net/lent](http://www.highlandsumc.net/lent)



**March 8**

*Rev. Steve Reneau*  
Elba United Methodist Church



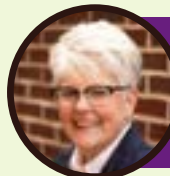
**March 15**

*Rev. Caroline Foster*  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church



**March 22**

*Rev. Caitlin Harper*  
Community Church Without Walls



**March 29**

*Rev. Sarah Shelton*  
Baptist Church of the Covenant



**April 5**

*Rev. Kevin Higgs*  
Sylvan Springs United Methodist Church



**April 12**

*Rev. Elizabeth Goodrich*  
Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley



# WELCOME TO HIGHLANDS!

## ALL ARE WELCOME



A Reconciling Congregation with the Reconciling Ministries Network ([rmnetwork.org](http://rmnetwork.org))

Highlands United Methodist Church is a community of disciples of Christ; a beacon of hope, inviting all to become new persons in Christ to be sent into the world to share the Gospel and to serve our neighbors; and a sanctuary for those in need of God's love and grace.

Highlands United Methodist Church affirms that nothing can separate anyone from the love of God. We invite all to worship, wonder, and discover God's grace as we aspire to create a safe space for all to participate fully in the life of this community of faith. We are called to shine as a beacon of hope, grace, belonging, and respect for all people. Regardless of age, gender identity, ethnicity, sexual orientation, family, financial status, nationality, physical or mental ability, past or future, there is room for you at Highlands.

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### INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

The message of the Hebrew prophets, Jesus, Paul, and the early church was always a message of welcome and inclusion for all. The image of God's kingdom is of something small and insignificant growing into something larger and of great significance. The oppressed, the alien, and the outcast were all welcomed, included, and cared for. In this sense, our faith is built upon the idea of gracious hospitality. Followers of Jesus are not about walls of exclusion but bridges of grace and acceptance. Ours is a faith of invitation, for all to come to know Jesus as the living Christ who overcomes all brokenness, sin, and even death, offering a way to make all things new. This invitation extends to you. If you desire to explore what this means for you, please speak to a member of the clergy after the service or sometime this week. We welcome the opportunity to visit with you.

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### COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

- If you have been exposed to COVID-19 or exhibit symptoms of illness, please join us for online worship. *Worship services are livestreamed on Facebook, Youtube, and Vimeo. Visit [www.highlandsumc.net](http://www.highlandsumc.net) for more information.*
- Face masks that cover both the mouth and nose are required throughout the building at all times, regardless of your vaccination status.
- Hand sanitizer is available throughout the Sanctuary and church building. Congregants are especially encouraged to sanitize hands prior to receiving Holy Communion.
- Please be mindful of social distancing, especially in narrow hallways and in restroom facilities.

*If you have questions or concerns regarding in-person worship COVID protocols, please contact the church office at 205-933-8751.*

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### OFFERING

*Cash or Check Giving:*

- Giving envelopes are available in the pew racks. Checks may be made payable to HUMC.

*Electronic Giving:*

- Text GIVE to 205-900-3040. A link will be provided for a simple, quick way to give with one click.
- Visit [www.highlandsumc.net/giving](http://www.highlandsumc.net/giving) to give using a debit/credit card or bank account.

*Sustainable Giving:*

- To set up automatic monthly bank drafts, contact financial manager Tyra Johnson-Pirtle at [finance@highlandsumc.net](mailto:finance@highlandsumc.net).