**Fairview Moravian Church**

**Ash Wednesday**

**March 6, 2019, 7:00 PM**

**Gathering**

Ash Wednesday is the day Christians mark as the first day of Lent, the time of reflection and penitence leading up to Easter Sunday. Clergy all over the world dispense ashes, usually made by burning the palm fronds distributed on last year’s [Palm Sunday](http://christianity.about.com/od/holidaytips/qt/whatispalmsunda.htm), making the sign of the cross on the foreheads or hands before them. As they “impose” or “dispense” the ashes, the pastor or priest reminds each Christian of Genesis 3:19: “For dust you are and to dust you shall return.”

**Prelude** *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* Arr. Whitworth

**Welcome**

**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.**

**Opening Prayer**

**Hymn 341** *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

**Scripture Lesson** Joel 2:1 – 2, 12 – 17

**Silent Reflection**

**Scripture Lesson** 2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10

**Silent Reflection**

**Hymn 762** *Just As I Am, Without One Plea* (St. 1, 2, 5 and 6)

**Gospel Lesson** Matthew 6:1 – 6, 16 – 21

**Silent Reflection**

**Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline**

**Thanksgiving Over the Ashes**

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.

Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of mortality and penitence,

**s**o that we may remember that only by your gracious gift

**a**re we given everlasting life;

through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

**Imposition of Ashes**

**Prayer of Confession** Psalm 51:1 – 17

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

**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.**

Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

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

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

**Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

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

Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

**Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.**

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

**The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

**Silent Prayers of Confession**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**The Peace**

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

**Hymn** *I Take the Cross of Jesus Christ*

I take the cross of Jesus Christ in ashes on my face,

this ancient symbol made in dust reminds me of his grace.

I beg for mercy from my Lord, cleansing me deep within.

I know myself, my faulty life, my tendency t’ward sin.

O cross of ashes, speak again in ways I understand;

speak forth repentance, let me know forgiveness from your hand.

Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray; look deep within and find our

hearts made whole, our thoughts made pure, our eyes no longer blind.

This cross of ashes on my brow reminds me life is brief.

From dust I came, to dust I go through sorrow, pain and grief.

These forty days are set aside for those who share the call

to take the cross deny themselves, and give to Christ their all.

**Benediction**

**Postlude** *Ash Wednesday Comes, and, Lord, We Hear* TALLIS’ CANON

