

Welcome to Brownback's United Church of Christ

640 Ridge Road
Spring City, Pennsylvania



Ash Wednesday Service
February 17, 2021 7:00 p.m.

Welcome!

We are glad you're here to worship with us tonight.
May this be for you a time of refreshment and renewal.

Prelude

Lenten Prelude

Martin

Call to Worship*

Let us look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,
Who for the joy that was waiting endured the cross.
Jesus came to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the
captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate those who
are oppressed, and to proclaim the year of God's favor.

Hymn 430

Be Not Afraid

Come as You Are...Our Time Before God

In this time of confession, we arrive as disciples of Jesus Christ.
We are called and encouraged to struggle against everything that leads
us away from the love of God and neighbor.
Repentance, fasting, prayer, study, and works of love help us return to
that love.

Special Music**

Jesus Paid It All
Worship Ensemble

Confession of Sin

We are invited, then, to re-commit ourselves to love God and neighbor
by confessing our sins and asking God for strength to persevere in
these, our Lenten disciplines.

Intentional moment of silence

As we begin this journey tonight, through lent, through holy week and the celebration that awaits us all on Easter, may we be prepared. Like a well-prepared traveler, we confess God that we want to pack our bags to make sure we are comfortable on this six-week journey. But tonight, on Ash Wednesday, we learn to leave that luggage behind, braving the unknown with courage with each other and carrying nothing but the mark of God's beloved.

In this vulnerable place, we confess that we want to be surrounded by all of the things that make us feel good about ourselves, including things we believe that God needs in order to love us.

And yet God whispers to us that we are made in the divine image and that faithfulness to that knowledge is all we need for the journey of life.

May we then ponder what it is that we need to let go of for Lent, in order to help us hear the stories more clearly of Jesus' extravagant love for all, and to follow him more bravely and confidently.

Assurance of Pardon

Know that God loves you, forgives you, welcomes you, and rejoices in you.

Scripture Reading

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Let everyone tremble in fear because the day of the Lord is upon us. It is a day of darkness and gloom, a day of thick clouds and deep blackness.

Suddenly, like dawn spreading across the mountains, a great and mighty army appears.

Nothing like it has been seen before or will ever be seen again.

That is why the Lord says, "Turn to me now, while there is time.

Give me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning.

Don't tear your clothing in your grief, but tear your hearts instead."

Return to the Lord your God, for he is merciful and compassionate,
slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.
He is eager to relent and not punish.
Who knows? Perhaps he will give you a reprieve, sending you a
blessing instead of this curse.
Perhaps you will be able to offer grain and wine to the Lord your God
as before.
Blow the ram's horn in Jerusalem!

Announce a time of fasting; call the people together for a solemn
meeting.
Gather all the people— the elders, the children, and even the babies.
Call the bridegroom from his quarters and the bride from her private
room.
Let the priests, who minister in the Lord's presence, stand and weep
between the entry room to the Temple and the altar.
Let them pray, "Spare your people, Lord!
Don't let your special possession become an object of mockery.
Don't let them become a joke for unbelieving foreigners who say,
'Has the God of Israel left them?'
This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Hymn 430

Be Not Afraid

Gospel Reading

Mark 6:1-6, 16-21

Ash Wednesday Message

Rev. Mark Stryjak

Hymn 257

What Wondrous Love Is This

The Ashes

Written by Jessica Gazzola

These ashes were once trees and shrubs, and places where life was
lived to its fullest.

Once they were full of life.
Now they are black and grey. Dry. Lifeless.
But mixed with the oil and water of our baptism make good fertilizer:
it will help the seeds of the gospel take deeper root in us and bring
forth the fruits, the harvest of justice, peace, and generosity.
These are ashes worth wearing.
May we accept this gift. And be blessed.

Symbolic Receiving of Ashes

Offering

Afron

Haan

As we faithfully consider those in our communities that are in need of basic essentials, as we offer our resources believing change will be felt in this community, may the act of generosity be an ongoing gesture of our love for humankind and where there are no divisions or lines drawn, but for all to live in peace.

Recipients: The Spring City Food Pantry and The Clinic

Prayer of Dedication

God of Awe and Glory, as you receive these gifts, we offer them to you as symbols of our trust in your ongoing and steadfast love.
We pray earnestly that you continue to bless the givers and those who receive.
On this Ash Wednesday, with our journey to the cross begun,
may we walk in the love and light of your Son. Amen.

Holy Communion

Benediction

The time has come to depart this holy place...

Knowing the ashes are the beginning and not the final act, their mark on our lives, offering all of us a different way, to live, to love and to share all, with all.

As we prepare our minds and souls for this six-week journey, be brave, courageous and unwavering in your commitment.

Go now in peace in the spirit of peace. **Amen.**

Postlude

Martrydon

Wilson

As this service comes to an end, our service now begins!

Peace be with all of you!



Brownback's United Church of Christ

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Parish Administrator
Choir Director
Organist
Consistory President
Sexton
Cemetery Superintendent
Pastor Emeritus
Pastor Emeritus

The Congregation
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Kaitlin Iezzi
Penny Sallade
Patricia Kandler
Chadd Bauer
Larry Simmers
Greg Siwik
Rev. Frank L. Lamson
Rev. Dr. Eugene Grau

Today's liturgy is a combination of the following:

**Book of Worship, United Church of Christ*

*** "Jesus Paid It All" music and words by Elvina M Hall, Alex Nifong, and John Thomas Grape
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