Our waste and pollution of your creation, our blindness to the awe and beauty which you have given us,
we confess to you, God.
Accept our repentance, God, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and to your presence in the poor, for our indifference to injustice and cruelty, for our failure to love courageously,
accept our repentance, God.
For our judgements, fear, anger and all uncharitable thoughts toward others, for our prejudice and contempt of those who differ from us, for all that is hurtful that we have done,
accept our repentance, God.
Restore us, gracious God, for your mercy is great.
Hear us, O God, for your grace is the source of our life. Amen.

HYMN #2156 *Give Peace*

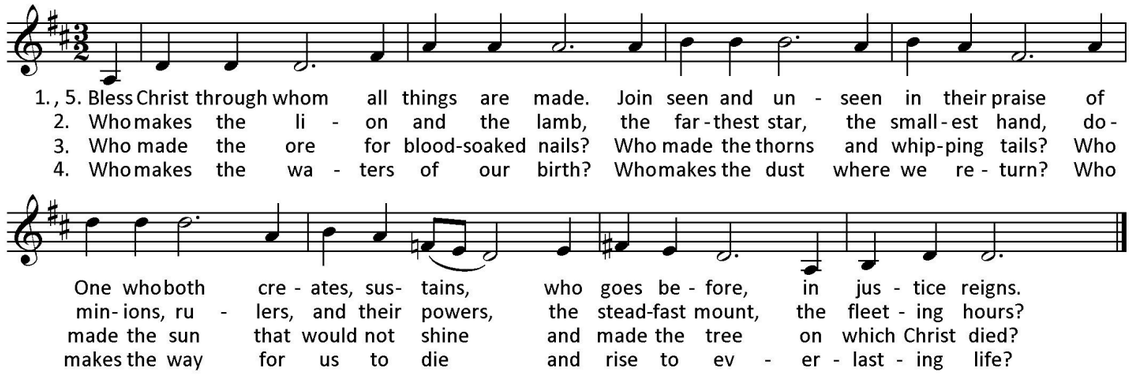
SILENT REST

IMPOSITION OF ASHES
As you come to receive ashes, you are invited on a journey to the back of the sanctuary and then down the aisle. When you turn the corner to come down the center aisle, imagine this turning as your turning toward God for this 40 days in a much deeper way than you usually do. When you have received the ashes, you are invited to stay and pray at the rail or in your seat as long as you wish and leave whenever you wish.

LISTENING PRAYER

God of grace, my life is ashes. Breathe your breath into that dust, that I may be created anew, and live by the grace of your Spirit alone. Amen.

HYMN *Bless Christ through Whom All Things Are Made*



Please depart from the sanctuary quietly as people may remain for a time to be prayerful

First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo
212 S. Park Street † Kalamazoo, MI 49007
269.381.6340 † www.umc-kzo.org

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH *OF KALAMAZOO*

March 2, 2022
7:00 p.m.

We are a Reconciling Congregation.

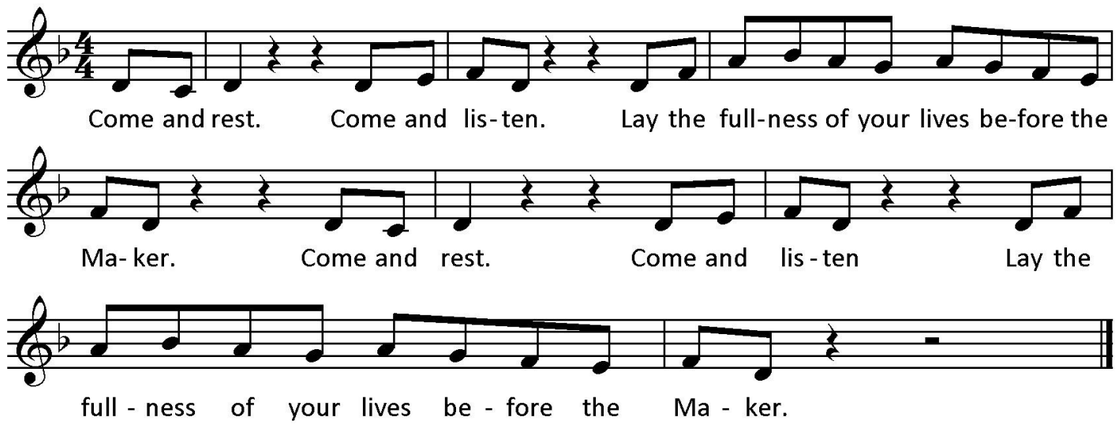
First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo invites all persons to join us on our journey of faith. Jesus Christ calls us to be an inclusive church that exemplifies the kingdom of God. We strive to move toward reconciling relationships with all, affirming those who are marginalized for any reason, including sexual orientation or gender identity. We welcome all with

open hearts, open minds, open doors.

Ash Wednesday Worship

PRELUDE

EVOKING THE MYSTERY



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SILENT REST

EXAMEN

Clergy: For that which, then, I thought was right . . .
All: have mercy, God.

Clergy: For that which, now, I regret . . .
All: forgive me, God.

Clergy: For that which, hence, I know not what to do . . .
All: guide me, God.

Clergy: Come and rest, come and listen. Know that grace, forgiveness and guidance are available to you at each and every moment that we turn to receive them.
All: Thanks be to God.

SEEKING THE WORD Mark 1:9-14, Joel 2:12-17

This is what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

KYRIE #2275

Gentle God, you created us in love and for love. We are the pure light of your love, given flesh. Your Spirit is our life; your breath is our breath. Your love shines in us, the image of Christ, and we are all being transformed into this image, from one degree of glory to another. But we deny your light and obscure your image. Help us to see all that impedes your perfect love in us, and to remove it, so that we may truly shine with your light. In this Lenten season, help us to see, to repent, and to be perfected in love, in the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

God, we turn to you, we who are made of the dust of the earth.
Receive us in our brokenness.
We turn to you, we who are made of the dust of stars.
Breathe your light into us once again.
Create in us a new heart, O God,
and put a new and right Spirit within us. Amen.

God of love, Jesus calls us to lives of love, trust, justice and compassion.
We want to be faithful, but our fears and desires interfere.
We want to trust in you, to rely wholly on your grace. We want to be whole, to be true to the people you create us to be.
We want to be a healing presence and a source of grace. But our fears and desires interfere.
We want to be kind to all, including our enemies. We want to reach out to those who are in need, and heal those who are hurting. We want to be bold in doing justice.
We want to pass on to those who struggle the way of living Jesus taught. But our fears and desires interfere.
Forgive us. Heal our fears, re-direct our desires, and give us the courage and compassion of your Spirit.
Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Amen.

Gracious God, you made us from the dust of the earth, and breathed your Spirit into us to give us life. The dust is the dust of stars. You have made us from light, and your Spirit blazes within us; your glory shines in us. But we have beiled your glory, and lost sight of your light. We have clung to the dust, but not the light, the Spirit, the Life. Renew your light in us this Lenten season. May we again become true earthlings, pure stardust, living light. Renew your Spirit within us, that we may live. Amen.

Most holy and merciful God,
To you and to one another we confess our sin. We have sinned in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, mind, soul, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven as you have forgiven us.
We have been untrue to the spirit of Christ. We have grieved you, and we are sorrowful.
Have mercy on us, O God.
Our unfaithfulness to you, our distrust, our neglect of your faithful grace, our failure to live wholly for you,
we confess to you, God.
Our unfaithfulness in prayer and worship, our failure to nurture the faith that is in us, our negligence of the Holy Spirit,
we confess to you, God.

Our self-indulgence and exploitation of others, our participation in injustice and oppression, and our failure to act or speak out, our love of worldly goods and comforts, our defense of our privilege, our pride and impatience, our envy and quickness to judge and not to heal.
we confess to you, God.

(continues on back)