

“Ash Wednesday” By Jim Burklo

March 1, 2017

On my forehead, A sign of the cross,
Smudged in ash from the fire
That burned down the McMansion
of my hubris, And, with it,
The money I should have given away,
The television I used to numb my senses,
The carpet I should have been called on,
The doors I should have opened to others,
The envelopes I should have used
To send letters of love,
The wise books I shelved prominently
So that others would think I had read them,
The blank places in my photo albums
Where my darker moments should have been remembered,
The calendars where visits with the people who needed me
Most should have been scheduled,
The couch of my complacency,
The lounge-chair of my laziness,
The shirts I stuffed with my pride,
The moccasins I should have traded with others
So we could have walked miles in them.
On my forehead, A sign of the crossroad
Where I can turn from the way of ruin
To the Way of Life. (2012)



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10:30am Worship Service
607 Lynn St. - Tipton, IA 52772;
563-886-2331

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www.tiptonumc.org

Mission Statement:

“To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Welcome visitors – **Whether you’re here with friends or relatives, or if you’re here by a mysterious, guiding hand, welcome! We’re glad you’re here.** If you’ve not been here before, relax. We aren’t going to ask you to stand up and introduce yourself. If you’re new to First UMC, we do have print materials on the table at the back of the main level of the worship center... help yourself or just ask someone!

If children are with you, that’s wonderful. Jesus loves children and so do we. You might sit near the front so the children can see and hear everything. There are children’s activity bags on the coat tree at the back of the sanctuary; a special children’s time, “From a Child’s Point of View,” and children’s bulletins are on the table. We do offer a staffed nursery for pre-school children during worship if you’d prefer to use it for part or all of the service. The easiest way to get there is to have an usher provide an escort.

Ask an usher about using a hearing assist device; or for a large print Hymnal.

Inside this bulletin is an insert. Please fill it out and use it for an “offering” at that time of the service. Beverage and light refreshments are offered in the Gathering Place before worship and in the Dining Room at the conclusion of worship. Everyone is welcome!!

Together We Come Into God's PRESENCE

* Indicates to Rise in body or in spirit.

PRELUDE

Gracy Procopio and Emma Russell

(Let this be a time when you prepare your heart for worship.)

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

(Time of Silence To Read the Ash Wednesday Poem on the front of the Bulletin)

* CALL TO WORSHIP, PRAYER AND REPENTANCE

Kevin Rogstad

Leader: The Lord calls us from our homes, drawing us to this sacred time and space
for worship, prayer and repentance.

**People: We come ready and willing to dwell in God's presence, for the Lord is
the source of our very being.**

(Pause in Silence)

Leader: God calls us to renew ourselves and our life's purpose as we gather with
others who are searching for meaning.

**People: Let us be silent together as we once again seek ways to center our lives
on Christ.**

(Pause in Silence)

The altar candles are lit.

Adam Heil

Leader: Let us now celebrate the richness and diversity of life in Jesus Christ.

* OPENING SONG

"Spirit Song"

No. 347

God Calls Us to PRAY

ASH WEDNESDAY UNISON PRAYER

No. 353

(Pause in Silence)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

We Proclaim Christ's WITNESS Through the Word

* OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

Zoe Stonebraker

RESPONSE

Kelley Lieser

L: Cry and God will answer

P: Call and the Lord will say: "I am here."

L: If you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word; If you give your bread to
the hungry, and relief to the oppressed;

P: Call and the Lord will say: "I am here."

L: Your light will rise in the darkness, and your shadows become like noon.

The Lord will always guide you, giving you relief in desert places.

P: Cry and God will answer. Call, and the Lord will say: "I am here."

* GOSPEL READING

Matthew 11: 27-30 (CEB)

Adam Heil

Response: The Inspired Word of God for the people of God. **P: Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

“Leaving Room”

Pastor Jenny Seylar

Experiencing the Generosity of God by the Giving and Receiving of GIFTS

SONG OF PREPARATION

“Change My Heart O God”

No. 2152 2X

LITANY OF CONFESSION (Based on Psalm 51)

Rachel Bierman Leader: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken heart – one filled with regret and remorse – God will not despise it. We are a broken people.

Trusting in God’s mending ways, let us now confess our sins before God and one another:

People: 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.

Liz Bierman Leader: Against You, Lord, You alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in Your sight. You are, indeed, justified in Your sentence and blameless when You pass judgment.

People: Certainly, 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.

Caleb Shumaker Leader: 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.

People: 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.

**On the slips of paper, write your sins. This is between you and the Lord- no one will see them but you. When you are finished, bring the slips of paper to the front when you receive the imposition of ashes and place them in the bowl.*

Greg Brown - Director of Xn Chaos

Andrew Allen - Xn Chaos Accompanist

Don Griffith - Custodian

Melinda Stonebraker - Administrative Ministries Coordinator

Alice Ann Gallagher - Chancel Choir Director

Denise Cartwright - Choir Kids Director

Jess Goodenow-Little Friends Preschool Director

Dee Wallace - Choir Kids Accompanist

Megan Coppess-Little Friends Preschool Teacher

Jo Brown & Dee Wallace - Accompanists

Jenny Seylar - Pastor

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Based on Psalm 51)

Carter Hill

Leader: O Lord, open our lips as our mouths declare your praise.

Response: **The Lord creates in us clean hearts; God puts new and right spirits within us.**

We are not cast away from the presence of the Holy One, and the Holy Spirit is not taken from us. In Christ, we are restored to the joy of God's salvation; and by God's grace, our spirits are remade to follow God's will. Thanks be to God!

(Pause in Silence)

EXPLANATION OF IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Maddie Swick

Leader: In our Scriptures, we read that our spiritual ancestors would sometimes cover themselves in ashes as a public demonstration of their penance – an outward expression of their repentance for having sinned. Many Christians continue that practice on Ash Wednesday. Having confessed our sins before God and one another, placing our sins on the paper, let us now experience the outward sign of repentance found in the imposition of ashes.

THANKSGIVING OVER ASHES

Pastor Jenny

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 gift of grace are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. **Amen.** I now invite those who wish to come forward and receive the mark of these ashes as a sign of Your repentance and total dependence upon God.

All are welcome to come forward to receive ashes at this time – either on your forehead or the back of your hand. IF you are unable to come forward, Pastor Jenny will come to you.

OFFERTORY

“Make Me A Channel of Your Peace”

Chancel Choir

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT

Jack Boldt

Let us Pray: **Most Holy God, Your Son came to save sinners from death, and for that we are eternally grateful. We offer but a small token of thanks to You as we present these gifts. We pray that these offerings will be blessed and multiplied, in order for we, Your people, to share Your hope with others. In Your Name we pray, Amen.**

We Are Sent Forth for God's SERVICE to the World

* SONG OF SENDING

“Lamb of God”

No. 2113

* BLESSING AND SENDING

Grady Glick

Leader: Go forth into the world in the strength of God's mercy to live and serve in the newness of life.

Response: **We are sent in Christ's name, the Lamb of God, who laid down His life for us all. We pray that the Lord will order our days in peace and grace. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

* POSTLUDE

“Amazing Grace”

Kelley Lieser and Rachel Bierman