



# MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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February 22, 2022 | 7:00 PM | Ash Wednesday

Jennifer Lovallo, Pastor

Jeffrey Fornoff, Music Director

## **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Once again, as the season of Lent begins, we are summoned by a gracious and merciful God.

*We respond to God's steadfast love, calling us into solemn assembly.*

Let all the people gather for self-examination. Let all bow before the One Who Creates.

*We approach God in reverence and wonder, rejoicing in the invitation to holy places.*

Walk humbly before God in secret disciplines, in prayer and fasting and giving.

*We seek the One who grants us life, upholding us with a willing spirit.*

## **\*OPENING PRAYER**

*Reconciling God, we, your people, come to claim your promise of salvation. In your wholeness, we find healing. In your power, we gain strength. In your love, we are thrust beyond our own concerns to embrace a hurting world. Blow the trumpet, that this solemn assembly may rejoice, that remembrance can bring renewal through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## **\*HYMN**

"Come and Fill Our Hearts" (3x)

TFWS 2157

## **HEBREW SCRIPTURE**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

OT pp. 846-847

## **PSALTER**

Psalms 51:1-17

UMH 785

## **GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 23:26-34

NT p. 89

## **SERMON**

"Father, Forgive Them"

## INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

### THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

#### IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*Ashes are a sign of mortality and repentance, reminding us that we are dust, and to dust we shall return. You are invited to come forward to the rail and receive the ashes on your forehead, or the back of your hand.*

#### CONFESSION AND PARDON

*Spare us, Sovereign God, from the awful consequences of our wrongdoing. We participate in a society that robs some people of their humanity and treats others as slaves. We lay up treasures in the wrong places while inflicting hardships on people we don't even know. Have mercy on us to blot out our transgressions, and wash away the stain of our sin. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Now is the day of salvation, a time for purity and kindness and love. God is creating a new wholeness within and among us, that we might serve truthfully and powerfully amid the afflictions and hardships of this world. Let us receive the joy that comes with the richness of God's grace and offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

#### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

#### LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

#### \*HYMN

"In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful" (3x)

TFWS 2195

#### \*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Let us go into this season with hearts attuned to God.

***We can endure all things through Christ who strengthens us.***

Let us go out as bearers of truthful speech and love.

***We go out as forgiven people, to bring reconciliation and peace.***

In the joy of salvation, let us dare to witness.

***In the assurance of belonging, we reach out to serve.***

***Amen and amen.***



Rev. Jennifer Lovallo, Pastor – [www.jennlovallo@gmail.com](mailto:www.jennlovallo@gmail.com) - (201) 314-8442

Office: 206 East Ann Street- 570.296.6124

[www.milfordmethodists.org](http://www.milfordmethodists.org) -- [milfordmethodists@gmail.com](mailto:milfordmethodists@gmail.com)

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