

Welcome to **OUR SAVIOUR'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
343 Scott Street, Ripon Wisconsin (920) 748-2544
www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com

Season of Lent Ash Wednesday Feb. 14, 2024

* *All who are able please stand* L: Leader; P: People
Prelude Acc.: Nicole Burdick

Words of Welcome and Good News.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

P: who made heaven and earth.

L: Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

P: Hope in God; for we shall praise him, our help and our God.

*HYMN: "All People that on Earth do Dwell" R2/Projected

*INVOCATION

ALL: Merciful God, we come to you today realizing that we are not how you want us to be. Help us let go of our past, that we may turn toward you and live again the life of faith. Help us call out our fear and hatred, our anger and self-pity. Lift the burden they place on our shoulders. Help us set aside our guilt and enter a season of healing. As we pray and fast today, help us become simple people, that we may see you plainly. As we wear the mark of ashes, rekindle the sign of hope within our eyes. Let us draw near to you now. Amen.

WITNESS OF FAITH: Isaiah 58:1-12

WITNESS OF FAITH: Psalm 51:1-17

CALL TO CONFESSION

L: Genuine repentance involves two things: the dying-away of the old self and the coming-to-life of the new. The dying-away of the old self is to be genuinely sorry for sin, to hate it more and more, and to run away from it. The coming-to-life of the new self is wholehearted joy in God through Christ and a delight to do every kind of good as God wants us to. Together, as Christ's body, we now confess our sin and express our longing to live in joyful obedience to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Lord God, it is hard to think that we will die someday. We dream, make plans, and talk about what we'll do in the near future. We don't always think about what you want. Instead, we make choices that we think are good for us. But we are only here because you take care of us. We confess that we forget we need you all the time. We confess that

sometimes we make choices that aren't what you want. We don't know what is best for our lives. Holy God, we are sorry for our sin. Help us to remember we live because of you. Help us to do what you want us to do through Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. In Jesus your sin is forgiven.

P: Amen.

Passing of the Peace [Let us bless one another in Christ as we are comfortable.]

WITNESS OF FAITH: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 9:2-9

SPECIAL MUSIC: "There is a Balm in Gilead" with Voices Ala Carte

SERMON: "Here and Now Care for One Another"

Rev. Kevin Mundell

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

[Offering options by the sanctuary entrances/social media/mail/office.]

Prayer of Dedication and Blessing

*HYMN: "What does the Lord require of praise and offering?" R60/Insert

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

L: We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, calls us to heartfelt repentance, and urges us to place our hope in God alone.

ALL: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes remind us of our mortality and penitence and teach us again that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

(All are welcome to participate at their level of comfort receiving both the ashes and communion, one or the other or neither).

*UNIVERSAL PRAYER

L: As we begin this season of Lent, let us pray for ourselves and for the whole world that all people may come back to God, repenting their sins, and seeking his forgiveness. Let us pray that we may hear God's call this Lent to come back to him, asking his mercy and forgiveness. Lord, have mercy.

P: Lord, have mercy.

L: Let us pray that, when we lose confidence in ourselves, in others, and in God, we may be blessed with the gift of faith. Lord, have mercy.

P: Lord, have mercy.

L: Let us pray that, when we are tempted to despair, we may find hope. Lord, have mercy.

P: Lord, have mercy.

L: Let us pray that, when our hearts are filled with anger and resentment, we may find compassion and love. Lord, have mercy.

P: Lord, have mercy.

L: As we forgive those who sin against us, let us ask for God's mercy in the words that Jesus taught us:

All: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

L: Jesus Christ, we want always to remember that you love us, died for us, and rose from the dead for us. In the next weeks, help us to remember, and help us trust in you more and more.

P: Amen.

***Postlude**