



And so, from places near and far, many of us will make our way to quiet sanctuaries on Ash Wednesday. There, marked with the dust of our world, we will pause or kneel, and someone will meet our eyes and say in solidarity: 'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.' And in that moment, no matter who we are or where we come from, we can and will face, if only briefly, the truth of our lives, with all their failures and missed opportunities and disappointments. We can be honestly, openly human.

- Rev. Amy Butler

**A Service of Ashes
Based on Psalm 51
Edmonds United Methodist Church
March 01, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.**

† Please silence cell phones before worship begins.

Prelude	<i>Chorale Prelude on Jesu, Meine Freude</i> -Aaron David Miller (b.1949)	Hyun-Ja Choi
Call to Prayer	Psalm 51:1-2 <i>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.</i>	Lili Broce
Opening Hymn	<i>Sunday's Palms are Wednesday's Ashes</i>	The Faith We Sing #2138

*Please stand if it's comfortable for you to do so

Not just in my heart, but in the secret space it holds.
In the heart of my heart.
In the place where I am myself.
In the space that I protect the most and share the least.
In the hidden chamber that I sometimes close off even from myself.
In the realm where you wait and watch,
where you see each thing that lies in shadow,
where you know the names of all that makes its home in me.
Here in my secret heart;
Here teach me to move with your wisdom,
to open the doors that will draw me deeper still,
to live in the truth that you desire;
Here let me open the windows wide
so that those who pass by
will see you looking out.
Amen.

Scripture Sentence

Psalm 51:3-5

Lili Broce

*For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgement.
Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.*

Scripture Reading

Luke 4:1-13

Pastor Adrienne

Meditation

“Beyond No-ing”

Pastor Sandy

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor Adrienne

Prayer of Confession

Most holy and merciful God,
We confess to you and to one another
That we have sinned by our own fault 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,
And mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.
We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
We have been unfaithful, proud, hypocritical and impatient.
We have been self-indulgent and envious.
We have been intemperate in our love of worldly goods and comforts.

We have neglected worship and prayer.
We have been blind to human need and suffering, to injustice and cruelty.
We have wasted and polluted your creation.
We have made false judgments and held uncharitable thoughts toward others.
Hear our confessions, O God, for your mercy is great.

Silence

Scripture Sentence

Psalm 51:6-9

Lili Broce

*You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
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.*

Silence

Scripture Sentence

Psalm 51:10-13

Lili Broce

*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.
Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.*

Silence

Words of Assurance

Pastor Adrienne

Pastor: Dear friends, God is full of compassion and mercy,
Abounding in steadfast love.
As far as the east is from the west,
So far has God removed your sin from you.
Believe the good news of the Gospel: you are forgiven.

People: Believe the good news of the Gospel: you are forgiven.

All: God forgives all our sins, and leads us in the way of life.
Thanks be to God!

Turning Toward God

Invitation to Make an Offering to God

Pastor Sandy

As soft music plays, you are invited to take a small slip of paper and a pencil, located in your pew, and write on it any word or symbol which expresses something you wish to renew in your life, to turn toward, to develop, to grow, or to transform in order to be more fully the person whom God is calling you to be.

Hymn of Prayer

My Prayer Rises to Heaven

Red Hymnal #498

During the hymn, a basket will be passed down your row and you may drop your paper into it, to be burned on the altar and symbolically given to God.

Imposition of the Ashes

Anthem

Create in Me
By Terre Johnson

Chancel Choir

Invitation

Pastor Adrienne

Pastor: In mercy God calls us to the path of repentance.
God reminds us that we are earth and dust.
But God promises to lift the poor from dust.
Come and receive the sign of repentance.

Imposition of Ashes

All are invited to come forward and kneel or stand as an act of dedication to God, and as an expression of the desire for a renewed life. At the railing, a minister will mark your forehead with ashes as a sign of your humanity, saying these words: "Turn toward life, and receive the grace of God." During the imposition of ashes all are invited to sing the following hymn:

Hymn

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Red Hymnal #521

Scripture Sentence

Psalm 51:1-19a, 12

Lili Broce

*O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt-offering, you would not be pleased.
The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,
then you will delight in right sacrifices.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.*

Closing Hymn

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

Red Hymnal #301

Closing Litany

Pastor Sandy

People: Truly dust we are, and to dust we shall return;
and truly yours we are, and to you we shall return.
Help this to be a time of turning round and beginning again.

Leader: Through the forty days of Lent, help us to follow you
and to find you: in the discipline of praying
and in the drudgery of caring -
in whatever we deny ourselves,
and whatever we set ourselves to learn or do.

People: **Help us to discover you**
in our loneliness and in community,
in our emptiness and our fulfilment,
in our sadness and our laughter.

Leader: Help us to find you when we ourselves are lost.

People: **Help us to follow you on the journey to Jerusalem**
to the waving palms of the people's hope,
to their rejection, to the cross and empty tomb.
Help us to perceive new growth amid the ashes of the old.
Help us, carrying your cross, to be signs of your Kingdom.

Leader: And now go in peace to love God and neighbor.

All: Amen.

Postlude

Reprise
Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Hyun-Ja Choi

~You are always welcome to be seated and enjoy the postlude~

*If you are available, we need people for parking lot greeters, inside greeters and ushers for the 2:00pm
Threshold Event Welcoming Bishop Elaine Stanovsky, this Sunday, March 5th.
Please contact Keith Skore at kskore@comcast.net*

Edmonds UMC Staff

Ministers: All of us!

Lead Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sandy Brown

Pastor of Congregational Care:

Rev. Adrienne Schlosser-Hall

Director of Operations and Finance:

Julie Trott

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Building Manager:

David Walters

Children's Center Director:

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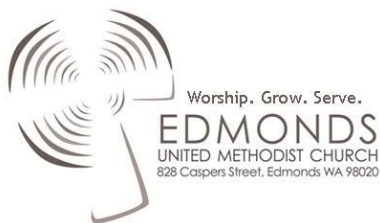
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