

Today we begin the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday is the first day of the Lenten Season. The weeks that follow lead us right up to Easter. We set aside the days in Lent to seriously consider the sacrifice and passion of Jesus Christ in preparation for the Celebration of the Resurrection.

Lent is a time of fasting and prayer. Traditionally, for the Ash Wednesday service, ashes from the burnt palm branches from last year's Palm Sunday ceremony are imposed on the forehead in the sign of the cross. This symbolizes our humility before the Lord as we repent and seek forgiveness.

North Bend UMC
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North Bend
United Methodist Church

Ash Wednesday
February 22, 2023

Prelude Morgan Hunkele

*Call to Worship

Leader: From the dust of the earth, God formed us.

People: From the dirt of sin, God would raise us up.

Leader: By the redemptive power of the cross, God creates in us clean hearts.

People: We repent of our sins and seek a new and right Spirit within us.

*Hymn #400 *“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”*
(verses 1 & 3)

*Opening Prayer Unison

Lord Jesus, take full possession of our hearts, establish in them your throne, and rule there as you rule in heaven. Being created by you, let us live in you. Being created for you, let all we do bring glory to you. Being redeemed through you, let us ever surrender to you. May we always cling to you alone. Amen.

Scripture Reading Exodus 20:13

Message Pastor Scott Stephans

“The Sixth Commandment”

CEREMONY OF THE ASHES

Confession and Repentance
Forgiveness and Thanksgiving
Receiving the sign of the Cross

*Hymn #363 *“And Can It Be”*
(verses 1, 3 & 5)

*Closing Blessing

Postlude

(*) indicates places for the congregation to stand (as you are able)