

North Bend Church
a Global Methodist Congregation

Ash Wednesday
February 14, 2024, 7 pm
**indicates to stand, if able*

Prelude

Ashley-May Burkhardt

***Call to Worship¹**

Leader: Come into the light!

People: We know the darkness better. The Light frightens us.

Leader: Come into the presence of Love.

People: Our fears and doubts overwhelm us. We feel unable to move.

Leader: Come let God's love wash away your sorrow.

People: Please help us. We are filled with fear and sorrow. Bring us healing. Amen!

***Singing**

I Need Thee Every Hour

UMH #397 (vs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

**1. I need thee every hour,
most gracious Lord;
no tender voice like thine
can peace afford.**

Refrain:

**I need thee,
O I need thee;
every hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Savior,
I come to thee.**

**2. I need thee every hour;
stay thou nearby;
temptations lose
their power
when thou art nigh.**

Refrain:

**I need thee,
O I need thee;
every hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Savior,
I come to thee.**

**3. I need thee every hour,
in joy or pain;
come quickly and abide,**

or life is vain.

Refrain:

I need thee,
O I need thee;
every hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Savior,
I come to thee.

4. I need thee every hour;
teach me thy will;
and thy rich promises
in me fulfill.

Refrain:

I need thee,
O I need thee;
every hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Savior,
I come to thee.

5. I need thee every hour,
most Holy One;

**O make me thine indeed,
thou blessed Son.**

Refrain:

**I need thee,
O I need thee;
every hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Savior,
I come to thee.**

***Praying Together¹**

Lord, help us to know your powerful presence this night. We have come to this place shrouded in darkness both of night and of spirit. Bring us to your healing light. Lift our souls and spirits to receive your direction. In Christ's Name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10 (NIV)

5:20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6:1 As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in

vain.

2 For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

3 We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited.

4 Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; 5 in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger;

6 in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love;

7 in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left;

8 through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors;

9 known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed;

10 sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Ceremony of the Ashes

Confession and Repentance

Leader: Let us pray: Holy God, we acknowledge that we have not been the people that you created us to be. We have turned away from you and have followed our own way. We come before you now asking for healing, forgiveness, and reconciliation. We confess:

People: We have not loved our neighbors with Christlike love. We have not listened to the voice of the Holy Spirit. We have used our words to hurt rather than build up those around us. We have not lived with generous hearts toward the poor and needy. We have worshiped and trusted idols of our own making—power, success, and wealth. We have done things in secret against your will for us.

Leader: Our sin is apparent before us and your judgments are true. Merciful God, we long to be in your presence. Make us holy as you are holy.

People: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Silence for individual confession

Forgiveness and Thanksgiving

Leader: Cleanse us, Lord, and wash us of our sin.

People: Create in us clean hearts and we will declare your praise.

Leader: Teach us wisdom through your Word and Holy Spirit.

People: Renew our spirits and we will freely serve you.

Leader: Restore to us the simple joy of holiness in heart and

life.

People: Sustain in us willing spirits to persevere in obedience.

Prayer Over the Ashes

Everlasting God, we are reminded this day that the things of this world amount to dust and ashes in light of your Kingdom. We were created from the dust of the earth and we long for the new heaven and new earth where death and decay will be no more. We now ask, God, that you would send your Holy Spirit upon us and these ashes. Use them to remind us of the grace poured upon us at our baptism and our identity as your children. Teach us to set our hearts on heavenly, imperishable things, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return. Repent and believe the gospel.

Receiving the Sign of the Cross

Pastor Ed will invite all present to come forward row by row from front to back. Please enter the center aisle, receive the ashes, then exit to the sides to return to your seat. Those in the outside aisle are asked to enter at the back of the center aisle.

***Singing**

Just As I Am, Without One Plea

UMH #357

(vs. 1, 2, 3)

**1. Just as I am,
without one plea,
but that thy blood
was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me
come to thee,**

Refrain:

**O Lamb of God, I come,
I come.**

**2. Just as I am,
and waiting not
to rid my soul
of one dark blot,
to thee whose blood
can cleanse each spot,**

Refrain:

**O Lamb of God, I come,
I come.**

3. Just as I am,

**though tossed about
with many a conflict,
many a doubt,
fightings and fears
within, without,**

Refrain:

**O Lamb of God, I come,
I come.**

**4. Just as I am,
poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing
of the mind,
yea, all I need
in thee to find,**

Refrain:

**O Lamb of God, I come,
I come.**

**5. Just as I am,
thou wilt receive,**

**wilt welcome, pardon,
cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise
I believe,**

Refrain:

**O Lamb of God, I come,
I come.**

**6. Just as I am,
thy love unknown
hath broken every
barrier down;
now, to be thine,
yea, thine alone,**

Refrain:

**O Lamb of God, I come,
I come.**

***Closing Blessing**

Postlude

¹From "Worship Connection: January 14, 2019," by Nancy C. Townley, ministrymatters.com