

North Bend Church
a Global Methodist Congregation

Ash Wednesday
March 5, 2025, 7 pm
**indicates to stand, if able*

Prelude

Ashley-May Burkhardt

***Call to Worship¹**

Leader: In the midst of darkness we have come.

People: Heal us, Lord Jesus.

Leader: Save us from the darkness of our souls.

People: Save us, Lord Jesus.

Leader: Let us follow you and obey your commands

People: Direct and guide us, Lord Jesus.

Leader: Brighten our lives and lift our spirits.

People: Bring us to your glorious presence, Lord Jesus. 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

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (NIV)

- 6:1 “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.
- 2 “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have

received their reward in full.

3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know
what your right hand is doing,

4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who
sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

5 “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love
to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to
be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their
reward in full.

6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray
to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what
is done in secret, will reward you.

16 “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for
they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly
I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

17 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face,
18 so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but
only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees
what is done in secret, will reward you.

19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where
moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and
steal.

20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message

What Is Lent?

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