



The Church of the Red Rocks

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Faith Community

March 5, 2025

Ash Wednesday Service

*Congregation standing in body or in spirit

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

This is a time for contemplation.

There is little rejoicing at this time.

We are painfully aware of our own mortality.

Knowing time is limited, we face our transgressions.

The time of learning and testing is at hand.

Strengthen us and give us courage, O Lord.

OPENING HYMN No. 188 *"Give Me a Clean Heart"*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

O God, our lives can change so quickly. Not too long ago we were living in joyful light. Now, darkness is upon us, deeper than night. Tonight, we will receive the mark of the ashes to remind us of the redemptive journey. Forgive our fears and hesitancy. Heal our spirits. Grant us courage and trust, in Jesus' name. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND CONTEMPLATION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The night is dark, but have hope. God's light overcomes the darkness. Love and forgiveness are available to us. Children of God, let go of your fears. Release your anguish and serve in the name of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING (based on Psalm 51)

All: Have mercy on me, O God.

According to your unfailing love and great compassion, wash away our transgressions.

All: Have mercy on me, O God

For we know we have fallen short of following the teachings of our Savior. We know we have chosen to serve our needs over those of our neighbors.

All: Have mercy on me, O God

The heart of this community is built by every individual member. Therefore, O God, restore our communal understanding of how we respond to your call, as a church and as a people.

All: Have mercy on me, O God

Open our lips, Loving God, and our voices will declare your praise.

All: Have mercy on me, O God.

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND CONTEMPLATION

GIFT OF MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 3: 7, 8, 11-14

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.

Not that I have already obtained anything, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to be part of that for which Christ Jesus reserved for me. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead. I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

People are invited to come forward to receive the ashes on their forehead or hand.

BENEDICTION

Exit in silence

OUR MISSION

**Through Christian Worship, Education and Mission
we share and celebrate Faith in God with all.**