

SERVICE OF ASHES

GREETING & CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. (**Isaiah 1:18**)

Pastor: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: God's mercy endures forever.

HYMN #249

“Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus”

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.

OPENING CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Oh God, maker of everything and judge of all that you have made, from the dust of the earth you have formed us and from the dust of death you would raise us up. By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit, that we may repent of our sins and lead lives worthy of your calling, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:20 -6:1

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. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain.

HYMN #393

“Spirit of the Living God”

Spirit of the Living God, fall a-fresh on me, Spirit of the Living God, fall a-fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me, Spirit of the living God, fall a-fresh on me.

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

“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. “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. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. “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. 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. “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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 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. “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

OBSERVING LENTEN DISCIPLINE'S

The early Christians observed the forty days before of our Lord's passion and resurrection, as a season of spiritual preparation that we know as Lent. We observe a holy Lent by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word. In this Service of Ashes we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance and is a powerful nonverbal way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. Lent is a reminder of the cross Christ bore for our sins. The sign of the cross is a reminder of the cross Christ bore for you! In prayer ask the Holy Spirit to help you let go of the sin and obstacles that hinder your relationship with Jesus.

In silence let us humble ourselves before GOD!

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Psalm 51:10-17

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from sin, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. O Lord open my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. For thou desires not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delights not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

PRAYER OVER THE ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior. **Amen.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

As we receive these ashes may the almighty and merciful God, who desires not the death of a sinner but that we turn from sin and live, accept our repentance, forgive our sins, and restores us by the Holy Spirit to newness of life. **Amen.**

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

HYMN #354

"I Surrender All"

All to Jesus I surrender; all to Him I freely give; I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live.

(Refrain) I surrender all, I surrender all,
all to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender, make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
let me feel Thy Holy Spirit, truly know that Thou art mine.

(Refrain)

All to Jesus I surrender, Lord, I give myself to Thee;
fill me with Thy love and power, let Thy blessing fall on me.

(Refrain)

LILLIAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REACHING OUT WITH GOD'S LOVE

Address: 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL 36549 **Website:** LillianUMC.Org

Office: office@lillianumc.org

Office: 251-962-4336

Pastor: DanielWRandall@gmail.com

Pastor: 251-234-1122

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

ASH
WEDNESDAY



Remember that
you are dust, and to
dust you shall return.

Ecclesiastes 3:20

IN PERSON & LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

To view live or at any time from your computer, smartphone or tablet, go to LillianUMC.org website and click Worship.

March 1, 2023 at 6:30 PM