#  (C) Ash Wednesday March 2, 2022

*Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with a public act of confession. Acknowledging that we have all sinned and fallen short of God’s glory, we repent and return to our loving creator. Acutely aware of our failure and frailty, we express our utter reliance on God’s saving grace.* — Book of Common Worship (WJKP, 2018), 247

# PRELUDE

# (*As we gather please sit quietly in silence and prepare yourselves for worship)*

**GREETING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Joel 2:1-2, 12-14

**\*HYMN #166** *Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days* (verses 1-3)

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God, how quickly we defend ourselves. Our minds are full of excuses, justification and denial. The sense of threat distracts us from one another and hardens our hearts.**

**Humble us. Hold us. Heal us. Forgive us, O God, our creator and sustainer. Our hope and restoration depend on you alone. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**\*RESPONSE TO PARDON** Llanfair (tune to Hymn No. 245)

**Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!**

**Praise eternal as God’s love; Alleluia!**

**Praise our God, ye heav’n-ly host, Alleluia!**

**Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

**FIRST READING** Isaiah 58:1-12

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN #757** *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples* (verses 1-2)

**SECOND READING** 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

**HYMN #757** *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples* (verses 3-4)

**INVITATION TO OBSERVANCE OF LENT & IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

**Hymn #227** *Jesus, Remember Me* (5 times)

**Hymn #836** *Abide with Me* (verses 1-4)

**Hymn #227** *Jesus, Remember Me* (until *all* receive ashes)

Please continue to sing the hymn as you come forward to receive the imposition of the cross in ashes. Please come forward using the center aisle, beginning with those seated in the front rows. You may return to your pew by the outside aisle and be seated. Ashes are a sign of our frailty and humanity; our total dependence on God for life.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**CLOSING HYMN #434** *Restore in Us, O God*

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\* Congregational Response** Hymn #836 (verse 5)

***Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;***

***shine through the gloom and point me to the skies,***

***Heaven’s morning breaks, and earth’s vain shadows flee;***

***in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.***

**POSTLUDE**

**KEY TO HIGHLIGHTS**

 **LECTOR\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **PASTOR\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **CHANGES in MUSIC/LITURGY**