



Trinity United Church of Christ

Ash Wednesday

March 2, 2022

7:00 p.m.

In-Person Worship

FB Live Streaming

“Stardust”

**The Mission of Trinity United Church of Christ:
*We exist to Love people where they are and
encourage them to grow in their relationship
with Jesus Christ.***

WE GATHER

*During this worship, we encourage you to know and to remember that you have created a **Quiet Meditative Space**, that this is a **Safe and Loving Place**, a “**Sanctuary**” for worship, praise, and reflection; and to remember that **‘No Matter Who You Are or Where You Are on Life’s Journey, You are Welcome Here!***

Prelude: Instrumental Music Performed by Cammeron Williams

Welcome and Announcements – Robert Miller

Greeting

Let us look to Jesus,

The pioneer and perfecter of our faith,

Who for the joy that was waiting

Endured the cross.

**All who are able, please stand.*

Jesus came to preach good news to the poor,

to proclaim release to the captives

And recovery of sight to the blind,

To liberate those who are oppressed,

And to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.

Opening Prayer

Pastor Jessica

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Hymn of Adoration

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 58:1-12 Robert Miller

Gospel Lesson Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Pastor Jessica

Meditation "Stardust" Pastor Jessica

Invitation to the Holy Season of Lent

Pastor Jessica

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and

as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence

Blessing of 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, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

Imposition of Ashes

The ashes are imposed with the following words

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

Instrumental Hymn

Litany of Penitence

All: Most holy and merciful Father:

We confess to you and to one another,

and to the whole communion of saints

in heaven and on earth,

that we have sinned by our own fault

in thought, word, and deed;

by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

Silence

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

All: We confess to you, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

All: We confess to you, O God.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

All: We confess to you, O God.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

All: We confess to you, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

All: We confess to you, O God.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done:

for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

All: Accept our repentance, O God.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

All: Accept our repentance, O God.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

All: Accept our repentance, O God.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

All: Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

Amen.

Almighty God does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live.

Therefore, we implore God to grant us true repentance
and the Holy Spirit
that those things which we do this day
may be pleasing to God,
that the rest of our lives may be lived faithfully
and that at the last we may come to God's eternal joy;
through Jesus the Christ.

All: Thanks be to God!

Closing Hymn

Benediction

Worship Notes and Resources:

The music in our worship today is reproduced via our CCLI
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Leadership

Jessica Ashcroft-Townsley	Pastor
Cammeron Williams	Director of Music
Robert Miller	Lay Reader
Deb Persinger	Worship Committee
Sandy Sanders	

Worship Schedule at Trinity UCC for March:

March 6, 2022 – First Sunday in Lent
Theme – God in the Darkness
Scripture: Exodus 13; Matthew 22

March 13, 2022 – Second Sunday in Lent

Theme – Dark Emotions

Scripture: Jeremiah 29:4-11; Matthew 11:28-30

March 20, 2022 – Third Sunday in Lent

Theme – Eyes of the Blind

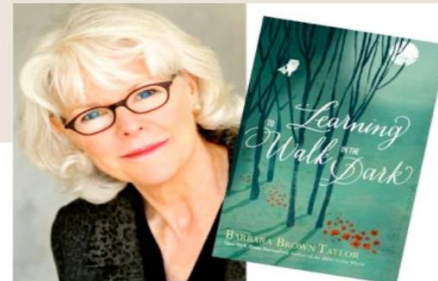
Scripture: Acts 9:1-9; Matthew 6:25-34

March 27, 2022 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Theme – Entering the Stone

Scripture: Psalm 139:7-16; Mark 4:26-29

LENTEN BOOK STUDY



Thursdays at 7pm on ZOOM
MARCH 3-APRIL 7

Beginning March 3, we will meet on Thursday evenings at 7pm via Zoom to discuss Barbara Brown Taylor's book *Learning to Walk in the Dark*. The book "seeks to rehabilitate what we have learned to fear—the dark" by reflecting on how we live our lives when the light isn't shining so brightly on us. Taylor teaches us how to rethink the "dark" and develop a spirituality that works not just in the bright light of day, but also at nighttime.

If you are interested in participating, please see Pastor Jessica for a book and the Zoom information.

Trinity U.C.C. Contact Information

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Consistory President – Robert Miller

Vice President – Doug Rhoten

Secretary – Debra Miller

Treasurer – Sue Myers

Assistant Treasurer – Debra Miller

