

Children and families are welcome in the Grace Space at the front, during worship.

\*Indicates to stand as you are able.

Words in bold invite a community response.

Listening devices and large print hymnals are available. An usher will happily assist you.



### Centering Music

*Just As I Am, Without One Plea*

William B. Bradbury

### Opening Prayer:

**God of promises and new beginnings, we hear you calling us to turn away from our yesterday and towards your tomorrow, to let go of the things that weigh us down, and to embrace the mercy you offer us with a generosity we can scarcely comprehend. As we set out into this Season of Lent, receive us as we are, and transform us: change us, make us new, set a right heart within us. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen**

### \*Hymn

*Take Time to Be Holy*

UMH #395, vs. 1-2, 4

### Scripture Lesson:

Psalm 51: 1-2; 10-17

### Special Music

*The Avowal*

arr. Shawn Kirchner

Chancel Choir

As swimmers dare to lie face to the sky,  
And water bears them,  
As hawks rest upon air,  
And air sustains them,  
So may I learn to attain freefall,  
And float into Creator Spirit's deep embrace,  
Knowing no effort earns that all-surrounding grace.

### Scripture Lesson:

Luke 14: 15-23

Pastor Tim O'Brien

The Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God!**

### Reflection

### \*Hymn

*Sweet Hour of Prayer*

UMH #496

**Lenten  
Questions for  
Personal  
Reflection—**

- What habit, mindset, or emotion would you like to leave behind this Lenten season?

- If you could give your faith life a “tune up,” what would you focus on? What would you hope to strengthen or improve?

- The psalmist prays, “Create in me a clean heart, O God” (Ps. 51:10). What is your prayer for yourself this Lenten season?

- Tune into yourself. How are you feeling emotionally, spiritually, mentally, and physically? What is weighing you down? What is giving you life?

**Prayer**

Great and merciful God: you created us in your own image, but we would rather make you over in our image, expecting and demanding far less of ourselves. At the opening of this season of penitence, we pray for courage and honesty, that our self-examination may be searching and specific rather than safely general. Move us in this time to seek genuine forgiveness for the sins we have ignored and give us strength to take up our cross and pursue the goodness we have left undone. In the name of him who, though subject to all our temptations, was alone without sin, Jesus Christ, our compassionate Lord hear our prayer...

**Silent Prayer of Confession**

**The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Imposition of Ashes**

Thanksgiving over the Ashes

Receiving the Ashes

**Hymn** *Just As I Am*

UMH #357

After all the ashes have been received please join us of singing verse six of  
*Just As I Am*

Time of Contemplation, Reflection, and Prayer

**\*Hymn**

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

UMH #526

**\*Sending Out to Do God's Work**

Jesus has born our burdens.

**We go forward relieved of what once weighed us down.**

Jesus has forgiven our sins.

**We go forward with our relationship with God and with each other restored.**

Jesus has called us to a deeper faith.

**We go forward with our hearts transformed to love one another.**

Jesus has given us New Life.

**Now we follow to live into the hope of resurrection.**

Let us pick up our cross as we go out as servants into the world.

**Let us prepare for the coming spring, the promise of new life and hope as we begin our Lenten Journey. Amen.**

**\*Postlude**

*Just As I Am, Without One Plea*

William B. Bradbury