

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means “spring.” The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting, and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. The First Sunday describes Jesus’ temptation by Satan; and the Sixth Sunday (Passion/Palm Sunday), Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent passion and death. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection.

The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in the Jewish and Christian worship. It is traditional to save the palm branches from the previous Passion/Palm Sunday service and burn them to produce the ashes for this service.



**REHOBOTH
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

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Pastor

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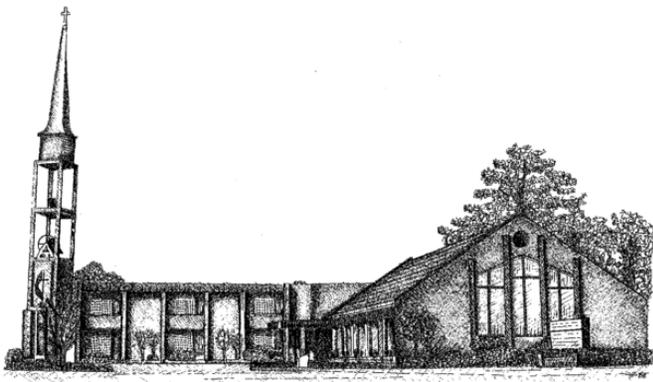
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March 2, 2022



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REHOBOTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6911 Two Notch Rd.

Columbia, SC 29223

Ash Wednesday

March 2, 2022 - 6:30 p.m.

PRELUDE

“The Old Rugged Cross”

GREETING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

God’s mercy endures for ever.

OPENING PRAYER:

O God, maker of every thing 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.

*HYMN

UMH 269

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

O.T. 798

HYMN

UMH 382

“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”

*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

N.T. 4

SERMON

“Piety Practice”

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLE

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: The early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord’s passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty day season of spiritual preparation. During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church. In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s Holy Word.

To make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before our Creator and Redeemer.

THANKSGIVING 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 we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

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

Repent, and believe the gospel.

CONFESSION

Psalm 51:1-17

UMH 785

PARDON

May the almighty and merciful God, who desires not the death of a sinner but that we turn from wickedness and live, accept your repentance, forgive your sins, and restore you by the Holy Spirit to newness of life. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “You Alone Can Rescue” Bryon Black, II

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN

“Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed”

UMH 294

*BENEDICTION

*AMEN RESPONSE

UMH 898

*POSTLUDE

“You Alone Can Rescue”

*Please stand as you are able.