

## **Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline**

### **Thanksgiving over the Ashes**

#### **Imposition of Ashes**

**Hymn “I Surrender All” UMH #354**

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

**Prayer of Confession (Psalm 51:1-17) UMH pg.785**

#### **The Lord’s Prayer**

**Offertory Music by Lena Choi**

#### **Doxology**

#### **Offering Prayer**

O Lord, to you who has given to us all things and held nothing back that is good and wholesome, we give to you these gifts with the prayer that you will bless them and use them to lift up the fallen and to give hope to those who struggle. Amen.

**Hymn “Love Divine all Love Excelling” UMH#384**

#### **Dismissal With Blessing**

God created us out of the dust of the earth and breathed life into us. Go out this day aware of your mortality, to live by faith rather than fear. Repent, and know that you are forgiven. Go in peace. Amen.

#### **Go Forth**

From now on, the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit will be with you forever and ever. Amen.



**Minden United Methodist Church  
February 22, 2023  
Service at 7:00 PM**

## Ash Wednesday Service

### Words of Welcome

#### Call to Worship

L: Why have we gathered in this place?

**P: We come in praise of the God of all life and in affirmation of Jesus Christ as the truth and center of our lives.**

**All: We celebrate places where love is found in life, and we give thanks for the gift of new life that comes to us this Lenten season.**

#### Opening Prayer

O 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.

**Hymn      “His Name Is Wonderful”      UMH#174**

**Scripture      Joel 2:1-2 & 12-17 (NIV)**

Blow the trumpet in Zion;

    sound the alarm on my holy hill.

Let all who live in the land tremble,

    for the day of the Lord is coming.

It is close at hand—

    a day of darkness and gloom,

    a day of clouds and blackness.

Like dawn spreading across the mountains

    a large and mighty army comes,

such as never was in ancient times

    nor ever will be in ages to come.

“Even now,” declares the Lord,  
    “return to me with all your heart,  
    with fasting and weeping and mourning.”

Rend your heart

    and not your garments.

Return to the Lord your God,

    for he is gracious and compassionate,

slow to anger and abounding in love,

    and he relents from sending calamity.

Who knows? He may turn and relent

    and leave behind a blessing—

grain offerings and drink offerings

    for the Lord your God.

Blow the trumpet in Zion,

    declare a holy fast,

    call a sacred assembly.

Gather the people,

    consecrate the assembly;

bring together the elders,

    gather the children,

    those nursing at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room

    and the bride her chamber.

Let the priests, who minister before the Lord,

    weep between the portico and the altar.

Let them say, “Spare your people, Lord.

    Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn,  
    a byword among the nations.

Why should they say among the peoples,

    “Where is their God?”

#### Message

**“Gracious and Merciful God”**

**Pastor Peter Choi**