



Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 26th, 2020

6:00 PM

Spruce Pine United Methodist Church

11090 South Highway 226 Spruce Pine, NC 28777

Church: (828) 765-7446 Pastor: (704) 604-1888

<i>Kathey Hollifield, Music Director</i>	<i>Kathy Miller, Organist</i>
<i>Bruce Ikard, Worship Technician</i>	<i>Rick Schilling, Pastor</i>

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

PRELUDE

WELCOME

^RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

The season of Lent calls us to a journey to the cross, to anticipate that final trip to Jerusalem.

Lent calls us to life's edges, where the grains fall to the ground, yet new life springs forth.

Lent not only calls us to give up something, but also invites us to participate in the mystery of God-with-us

God's grace calls us from grief into gladness, despair into hope, and separation into reconciliation with God, each other, and all of Creation.

^HYMN

"Sunday's Palms are Wednesday's Ashes"

TFWS 2138

^OPENING PRAYER

Let us offer our prayer to the God of second chances...

We bow our heads before you, O God, aware of our sinfulness and shortcomings. Remembering our baptism, the watermark of the cross upon us, we ask for the ashen mark of the cross on our foreheads tonight. This is another sign that in life and in death, we belong to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and coming again, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17 CEB

Blow the horn in Zion; give a shout on my holy mountain! Let all the people of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming. It is near— ² a day of darkness and no light, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread out upon the mountains, ¹² a great and powerful army comes, unlike any that has ever come before them, or will come after them in centuries ahead. Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your hearts, with fasting, with weeping, and with sorrow; ¹³ tear your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, very patient, full of faithful love, and ready to forgive. ¹⁴ Who knows whether he will have a change of heart and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God? ¹⁵ Blow the horn in Zion; demand a fast; request a special assembly. ¹⁶ Gather the people; prepare a holy meeting; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the groom leave his room and the bride her chamber. ¹⁷ Between the porch and the altar let the priests, the Lord's ministers, weep. Let them say, "Have mercy, Lord, on your people, and don't make your inheritance a disgrace, an

example of failure among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'"

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD **"Alarm Fatigue"** REV. RICK SCHILLING

HYMN **"Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord"** TFWS 2131

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF A LENTEN DISCIPLINE

The early Christians observed with great devotion
the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection,
and it became a 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.

^IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

(You are invited to come forward to receive the mark of the ashen cross upon your forehead, as the pastor says, "Your life is a gift from God. Be thankful and remember God." Please feel free to kneel at the altar in prayer afterwards.)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

^ IF ABLE, PLEASE STAND

