

**Brentwood Community United Methodist Church**

809 Second Street, Brentwood, CA 94513; 925-634-3093

Website [www.brentwoodumc.org](http://www.brentwoodumc.org)

## **Lenten Journey**

Ash Wednesday is the gateway to Lent. It is the day to begin the Lenten Journey. The word "Lent" comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, or spring, the time of year when the days begin to lengthen. The early church determined that the Lenten period of fasting and renewal should correspond to Christ's fasting (Matthew 4:2), and by counting 40 days backwards from Easter (excluding Sundays, which remain "feast" days or small Easter), arrived at the Wednesday seven weeks before Easter. It is the precious forty- days of journey to open ourselves up most particularly to God, to examine ourselves in the presence of the one who created us, knows us, and loves us.

# ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Feb 22, 2023

7:00 pm

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## GATHER IN SILENCE

### OPENING HYMN

Together

"Come and Find the Quiet Center" (TFWS #2128)

### INVIVATION

Rev. Hyesung Lee

### LITANY: We Come

Together

*In the softness of evening,  
in the solace of silence, we come to you, O Lord.  
We come for acceptance;  
we come for community;  
we come for forgiveness and love.*

#### **Sung response:** (Taize #2200 TFWS)

O Lord, hear my prayer (x2) When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer (x2). Come and listen to me

Silence

*In the serenity of day's end,  
in the restfulness of worship, we come to you O Lord.  
We come to you for respite;  
we come to you for completion;  
we come to you for forgiveness and love.*

#### **Sung response:** (Taize #2200 TFWS)

O Lord, hear my prayer (x2) When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer (x2). Come and listen to me

Silence

*In the quiet of the night,  
in the comfort of darkness we come to you, O Lord.  
We come for peace;  
we come for comfort;  
we come for forgiveness and love.*

**Sung response:** (Taize #2200 TFWS)

O Lord, hear my prayer (x2) When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer (x2). Come and listen to me

Silence

*We come, O Lord of Light,  
seeking the illumination of your Word.*

*We come for the path we can't find;*

*we come for the life we don't have.*

*We come to you for our lives are death  
and you alone have breath and being.*

**Sung response:** (Taize #2200 TFWS)

O Lord, hear my prayer (x2) When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer (x2). Come and listen to me

Silence

**SCRIPTURE READING** [PS 51:1-12]

(Prayer for Cleansing and Pardon, written by David after the prophet Nathan confronted him regarding his sin with Bathsheba)

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.

<sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup> Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless when you pass judgment.

<sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born guilty,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

<sup>6</sup> You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

<sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.

- <sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

## **MEDITATION ON REPENTANCE**

Rev. Lee

### **THE RITUAL OF ASHES The Ashes of Forgiveness**

Pastor: *Ashes are a symbol of purification. As a fire burns, it can separate what is valuable from what is valueless. In this same way, these ashes are pure. They are a symbol of the new space that is now present within us for a new life. Let us claim the new life Jesus offers us by praying to our God:*

**People:** God of love and mercy, we come to you in prayer, seeking to change our hearts and minds. We confess the baggage of idols, bitterness, and self-concern that we so often drag along with us, struggling under its weight all the while we attempt to follow Christ. Cleanse us from our attachment to these old things. Burn away their power in us and purify our hearts. In place of old ways, fill us with the new fire of Your Holy Spirit. Open up new opportunities for us to follow Jesus in loving You and our neighbors. In Jesus' name we ask these things. Amen.

### **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*Those who wish, now come forward and receive the mark of these ashes as a sign of your forgiveness and new life.*

### **SCRIPTURE READING [MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21]**

#### Concerning Almsgiving

**6** "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup> "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup> But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your alms may be

done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Concerning Prayer

<sup>5</sup>“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Concerning Fasting

<sup>16</sup>“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Concerning Treasures

<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**MEDITATION ON ‘RECONCILIATION’**

Rev. Lee

**PEACE SIGN LANGUAGE**

Peace with God, with myself, with you

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Together

**CLOSING HYMN**

Together

“LENT” (#2179 UMH)

1 Lord, who throughout these forty days,  
For us did fast and pray,  
Teach us with you to mourn our sins,  
And close by you to stay

2 As you with Satan did contend,  
And did the vict’ry win,  
O give us strength in you to fight,

In you to conquer sin

3 As you did hunger bear and thirst,  
So teach us, gracious Lord,  
To die to self, and always live  
By your most holy word

4 And through these days of penitence,  
And through your Passion-tide,  
Forevermore, in life and death,  
O Lord, with us abide

5 Abide with us that when this life  
Of suffering is past,  
An Easter of unending joy  
We may attain at last

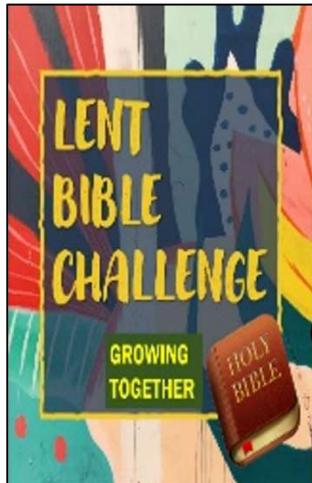
**BLESSING**

Rev. Hyesung Lee

May the glory of the Lord shine round about you,  
the light of Christ's presence glow within you,  
and the fire of Holy Spirit lead you forth  
in strength and wisdom! Amen

**SILENT DEPARTURE**

"Lent is about Becoming, Doing, and Changing whatever it is that  
is blocking the fullness of life in us right now. Lenten is a  
summons to life ANEW" (by Sister Joan Chittister)



**LENT  
BIBLE  
CHALLENGE**

GROWING  
TOGETHER

HOLY  
BIBLE

**40 DAYS**  
from **Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>** (Ash Wednesday)  
To **April 8<sup>th</sup>** (Holy Saturday)

**One Chapter a Day During Lent!**

- (1) Do it as an individual journey
- (2) Do it as a Family Lenten Journey
- (3) Sign Up for 3 Zoom Mtgs (3/5, 3/19, 4/2)!

**Program Copies are Available!**  
**See bulletin for more info!**



**SUNDAY  
NIGHT  
Live**

**COME TO SUNDAY  
NIGHT LIVE**

FOR FELLOWSHIP WITH  
SOUP & BREAD AND MORE!

**WHEN:** 5pm Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> 2023  
**WHERE:** Fellowship Hall

***\*Everyone is invited to come!  
Come as you are!***