

First Parish Church, Congregational
United Church of Christ
ASH WEDNESDAY
March 2, 2022
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO THE JOURNEY OF LENT

Leader: The season of Lent has come.

All: Let us recommit ourselves to following the journey of Jesus – the One who came to bring good news to the poor, hope to the struggling, and freedom to all from whatever holds them captive.

LITANY OF CONFESSION

Leader: For the times when our love of comfort and ease have loosened our focus on You and Your call for our lives;

ALL: Forgive us, Holy One.

Leader: For the times we have taken the gifts of body and mind You have blessed us with for granted;

ALL: Forgive us, Holy One.

Leader: For the times we have let down those who needed or trusted us, more concerned with ourselves than their need for concern;

ALL: Forgive us, Holy One.

Leader: For the times when we have lacked the courage to stand up for what was right, or for those not able to stand up for themselves;

ALL: Forgive us, Holy One.

ALL: During this sacred season of Lent, Holy One, renew us in body, mind and spirit.

SONG

“You Say”

Daigle, Maybury & Ingram

READING

“Rend Your Heart”

Jan Richardson

SILENT REFLECTION

THE PROPHETS

Joel 2:12-14

(New Revised Standard Version Translation)

¹² Yet even now, says the LORD,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD, your God,

for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.

¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the LORD, your God?

SILENT REFLECTION

SONG

“Amazing Grace”

Newton

READING

“Ash Mark”

J. Barrie Shepherd

SILENT REFLECTION

THE GOSPELS

Luke 9:23-25

(New Revised Standard Version Translation)

²³ Then he said to them all, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. ²⁵ What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves?

REFLECTION

Rev. Mark

GROUP REFLECTION

PRAYER (together)

We thank You, O God, for calling us to follow Jesus. We thank You for loving us so much that You ask us to walk that same path. During these days of Lent, may we rededicate ourselves to our relationship with You and each other, and recommit ourselves to putting Your ways first in our lives.

Amen.

CLOSING SONG

"Release"

Potter

BLESSING