



217 South Broad Street  
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[www.PendletonUMC.com](http://www.PendletonUMC.com)  
Contemporary Worship 9 AM  
Sunday School 10 AM  
Traditional Worship 11 AM



*February 14, 2024 at 6:30 PM*

## Prelude

### Greeting & Call to Worship

by Dr. Lisa Hancock

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Why have we gathered today?

**All: We gather to confess our sins and bring a sacrifice of a broken and contrite heart to God, who forgives us and frees us for joyful obedience. Today, we join one another and Christ on the road to the cross and commit ourselves to the Lenten journey ahead of us. May we be faithful to keeping a Lenten fast of justice, charity, and flourishing before God, self, and neighbor.**

### Opening Prayer

UMH Pg 353

Leader: Let us pray.

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.

All: Amen.

### \*Opening Hymn

“Just as I Am, Without One Plea”

UMH Pg 357

Verses 1, 2, & 3

### Scripture Lesson

Joel 2:1-2a, 12-17

### Meditation

“Offering”

Rev. Ricky Howell

### Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

UMBOW Pg 322

Leader: 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 bow before our Creator and Redeemer.

*(All pray in silence)*

### Thanksgiving Over the Ashes

UMBOW Pg 323

Leader: Let us pray.

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

All: Amen.

### Imposition of Ashes

#### Prayer of Confession

Psalm 51:1-17

UMH Pg 785

#### Assurance of Pardon

UMBOW Pg 323

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

All: Amen.

### \*Closing Hymn

“Just as I Am, Without One Plea”

UMH Pg 357

Verses 4, 5, & 6

### \*Benediction

by Dr. Lisa Hancock

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ go with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Why are we sent today?

**All: We go to confess God’s love to a broken and hurting world. As we wear the ashes of penitence on our bodies, so we carry the reconciling love of God we have received to a world sorely in need of justice, abundance, and flourishing. Amen.**

**\*Indicates where those who are able, please stand**