



EVANGEL HEIGHTS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

114 North Ironwood
South Bend IN. 46615
Phone: 574-234-8379

A Stephen Ministry Congregation
Wednesday, February 14, 2023
Worship 7:00 p.m.
YouTube: Evangel Heights UMC

Ash Wednesday

Prelude Mrs. Katy Monroe

Call to Worship Pastor Michelle Cobb

One: Even now, return to me, says God. Let the sirens in the streets rage; let the trumpet from the church house blow. Let those consumed with darkness, gloomy from bad fortunes know that:

Many: Even now, God says, return to me.

One: Let the abused and abusing hear, the defiant and disobedient revere. Let the sinner and the scornful draw near. Return from your ignorance, return from your injustice. Return from your apathy, return from your agony.

Many: Even now, God says, return to me.

One: Return from your selfishness, return from your greed. Return from your neglect, return out of your need.

Many: Even now, God says, return to me.

One: Return to me, with a clean heart. Return to me with fasting, weeping, and mourning.

ALL: Return to me, God says, for I am gracious and merciful; I am slow to anger and full of steadfast love. Return to me, God says, for I am your God.

OPENING PRAYER* Turba Family

Creating God,
still Center of the world you have made,
we come to you in this season of turning and returning.
We do not know how to seek you with our whole hearts,
but we know you are our source and our destiny.
In the midst of life,
we return to you, we turn toward you.
We thank you that you receive even the broken heart,
the troubled conscience, the conflicted spirit.
Seeking you in secret, may we honor you in public,
through Jesus Christ, our path homeward to you. Amen.

Opening Hymn * *Come and Find the Quiet Center* TFWS 2128

Scripture Lesson * Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 (NIV, pg. 1414) Turba Family

Hymn

My Lord, What a Morning

UMH 719

Gospel Lesson *

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (NIV, pg. 1503)

Turba Family

Message

Come Home

Pastor Michelle Cobb

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

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.

~A brief silence is kept, the congregation bowed~

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

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 only by your gracious gift
are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Pastor Michelle Cobb

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Pastor Michelle Cobb

Almighty God, we confess that we are often swept up in the tide of our own generation. We have failed in our calling to be your holy people, a people set apart for your divine purpose.

We live more in apathy born of fatalism than in passion born of hope..

We are moved more by private ambition than by social justice.

We dream more of privilege and benefits than of service and sacrifice.

We try to speak in your name without relinquishing our glories, without nourishing our souls, without relying wholly on your grace.

Help us to make room in our hearts and lives for you.

Forgive us, revive us, and reshape us in your image. Amen.

~All offer prayers of confession in silence~

Special Music

Come Home
Moffitt/Lindsey

Clear Family

The Lord God is merciful and gracious,
endlessly patient, loving, and true,
showing mercy to thousands,
forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin, and granting pardon. Amen.

Pastor Michelle Cobb

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

Closing Hymn *

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian in My Heart

UMH 402

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING *

GOING FORTH *

*For those who are able please stand

Call to Worship by Joseph W. Daniels, Jr., in *The Africana Worship Book*, Year B (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2007), 84.

Opening Prayer Reprinted by permission of the publisher from *Touch Holiness*, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright © 1990 by The Pilgrim Press..

Prayer of Confession Lydia S. Martinez, Hispanic. U.S.A. 20 th Cent. ALT.) .

Pardon by JEWISH PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS U.S.A.. 20 th CENT.

Copyright: "A Service of Worship for Ash Wednesday" Copyright © 1979, 1986 by Abingdon Press.

Renewal Copyright © 1992 UMPH. "Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline," "Thanksgiving over the Ashes," and "Pardon" from *The Book of Common Prayer* (The Episcopal Church, 1979), 264-

269. Public Domain.

Come and Find the Quiet Center

TFWS 2128

1 Come and find the quiet center
In the crowded life we lead
Find the room for hope to enter
Find the frame where we are freed
Clear the chaos and the clutter
Clear our eyes that we can see
All the things that really matter
Be at peace and simply be

2 Silence is a friend who claims us
Cools the heat and slows the pace
God it is who speaks and names us
Knows our being touches base
Making space within our thinking
Lifting shades to show the sun
Raising courage when we're shrinking
Finding scope for faith begun

3 In the Spirit let us travel
Open to each other's pain
Let our lives and fears unravel
Celebrate the space we gain
There's a place for deepest dreaming
There's a time for heart to care
In the Spirit's lively scheming
There is always room to spare

My Lord, What a Morning

UMH 719

Refrain:

My Lord, what a morning;
My Lord, what a morning;
Oh, my Lord, what a morning,
When the stars begin to fall,
When the stars begin to fall.

1 You'll hear the trumpet sound,
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall. **Refrain**

2 You'll hear the sinner moan,
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall. **Refrain**

3 You'll hear the Christian shout,
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall. **Refrain**

Lord, I want to Be a Christian in My Heart

UMH 402

1 Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

2 Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

3 Lord, I want to be more holy
in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

4 Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.