

St. Paul's United Church

February 18th, 2015 - Ash Wednesday

* = please stand as you are able

We enter in silence

***Greeting**

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all,

and also with you.

Introit Take, O Take Me as I am (X3) MV 85

Take, O take me as I am;

summon out what I will be;

set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

Gathering

Preparing for the Journey

Call to God: Psalm 138 (Responsive - VU 861 - *no refrain*)

Invitation to Confession

Confession

For the times when we are too rushed to care, when we are too tired to bother, when we don't really listen, when we act from motives other than love,

God, forgive us.

Silence

For our incapacity to feel the sufferings of others, and our tendency to live comfortably with injustice,

God, forgive us.

Silence

For our failings in community, our lack of understanding,

God, forgive us.

Silence

For our lack of forgiveness, openness, sensitivity,

God, forgive us.

Silence

For the self-righteousness that denies guilt, and the self-interest that strangles compassion,

God, forgive us.

Silence

Shedding the Past: 2 Corinthians 5:15-6:2

***Hymn** Spirit, Open My Heart

MV 79

Beginning the Journey

Remembering our Baptism

Let us not retreat, but listen to the psalmist.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

All are invited to come to the baptismal font to have water poured over their hands, as a reminder of their baptism and the call to leave behind the past and start on a new journey.

Out of the waters of baptism we rise to new life, renewed, and one with Christ.

Quenching of the Ashes with Oil of Renewal

These ashes remind us of our frailty and our mortality. This oil proclaims the grace of God. The mark we bear calls us to walk the way of the cross.

God our creator, you have formed us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes 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 saviour. AMEN

Joining One Another: John 15:12-17

