

4. To that old rugged cross I will ever be true, its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day to my home far away, where his glory forever I'll
share. [Refrain]

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

THE RECEIVING OF ASHES

Blessed are you, God of all creation. You are eternal, we are mortal, formed
from the dust of the earth. As we receive these ashes, make them a sign for
us of repentance and returning to you. Breathe into us again the breath of
life. Blessed be God for ever.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Repent, and believe the gospel.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

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. Amen.

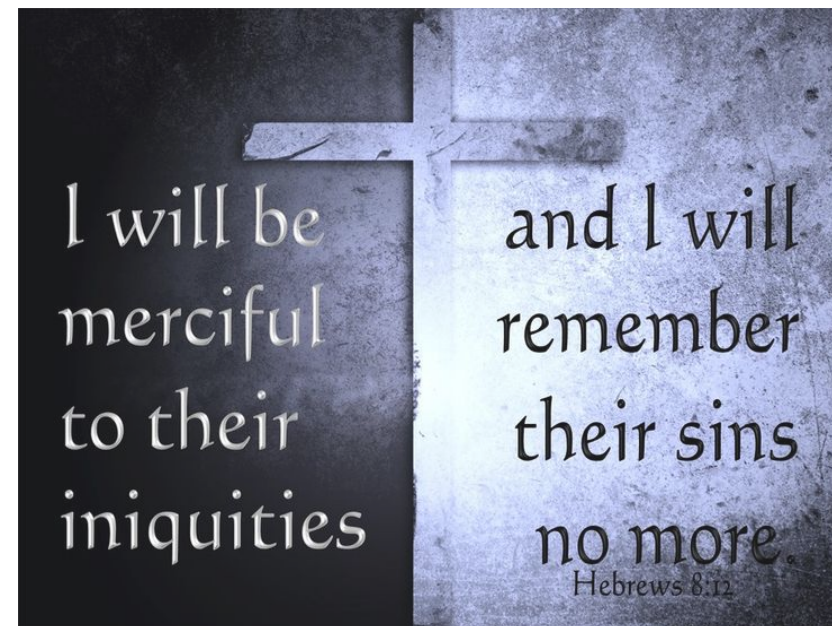
PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,
they will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespassed
against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for
thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENT
GERARD MOULTRIE



**“Rend Your Heart and
Not Your Garments”**

Joel 2:1; 12-17

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024

Service & Prayer Time

Fellowship Hall

7:00 AM



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

406 SHIRLEY ST • DERIDDER, LA 70634 • 337.463.4491

P.O. BOX 965 DERIDDER, LA 70634

WWW.FUMCDERIDDER.ORG • OFFICE@FUMCDERIDDER.ORG

Central to DeRidder, Centered in Christ
Our Mission is to Grow and Serve in Christ

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

MY JESUS, I LOVE THEE
SANDY ROGERS

WORDS OF WELCOME

REV. LARAINÉ WAUGHTAL

Sisters and brothers in Christ, from the earliest days of the Church, Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection. It became the custom of the church to prepare for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

At first this season was observed by those who were preparing for baptism at Easter and by those who, having been excommunicated, were to be restored to the communion of the church. By keeping these days with care and attention Christians might take to heart the call of repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and grow in faith and devotion to our Lord.

So, by self-examination and repentance, by prayer and fasting, by self-denial and acts of generosity and by reading and meditating on the word of God, let us keep a holy Lent.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, have mercy on us.

Incarnate Word, redeemer of the world,

have mercy on us.

Abiding Spirit, giver of light and life,

have mercy on us.

For turning away from your presence, for disobeying your word and commandments,
forgive us, Lord.

For trusting in our own strength instead of yours, for betraying your trust and the trust of others,
forgive us, Lord.

For resisting your grace and refusing your blessings, for holding back from proclaiming our faith in you,
forgive us, Lord.

For damaging this earth and exploiting its creatures, for neglecting and wasting the gifts you have given us,
forgive us, Lord.

For failing to forgive as we have been forgiven, for judging others and bearing grudges,
forgive us, Lord.

For skimping on our commitments and relationships, for failing in hospitality,
forgive us, Lord.

For tolerating oppression, injustice, and wrong, for keeping silent when we should have spoken up,
forgive us, Lord.

For turning away when others have offered us love, for closing our hearts when others have needed compassion,
forgive us, Lord.

For all we have done unkindly, unjustly and dishonestly, for our careless speech and hurtful words,

forgive us, Lord.

Most merciful God,

we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.

Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With our hearts turned to God in repentance, with the knowledge of our sins laid bare before the cross of Jesus Christ, in the name of the living God, your sins are forgiven. Receive God's mercy, take hold of your forgiveness, and, in the power of the Holy Spirit, walk in the light of Christ. **Amen.**

HYMN

LORD, WHO THROUGHOUT THESE FORTY DAYS

#269

WORDS BY CLAUDIA F. HERNAMAN
MUSIC FROM AN AMERICAN FOLK MELODY
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1. Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray, teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.
2. As thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win, O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.
3. As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord, to die to self, and chiefly live by thy most holy word.
4. And through these days of penitence, and through thy passiontide, yea, evermore in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: Brothers and Sisters in Christ, what do you believe?

Congregation: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

JOEL 2:1; 12-17

DEVOTIONAL

"REND YOUR HEART AND NOT YOUR GARMENTS"

HYMN

OLD RUGGED CROSS

UMH #289, v 1, 2 & 4

WORDS & MUSIC BY GEORGE BENNARD
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1. On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame; and I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.

2. O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, has a wondrous attraction for me; for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above to bear it to dark Calvary. [Refrain]