



**Sunday, February 14, 2021**

**Ash Wednesday**

**Waterloo First United Methodist Church**

614 Randolph Street, Waterloo, IA 50702

Phone: (319) 235-7088

[www.waterloofirst.org](http://www.waterloofirst.org)

**Prelude**

*Prelude, Fugue and Ciacona in C Major*

Buxtehude

**Welcome**

**Sharing the Peace of Christ:**

The peace of Christ be with you!

**And also with you!**

**Call to Worship**

LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered—how fleeting my life is.

**You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand. My entire lifetime is just a moment to you; at best, each of us is but a breath.**

We are merely moving shadows, and all our busy rushing ends in nothing. We heap up wealth, not knowing who will spend it.

**And so, Lord, where do I put my hope?**

**My only hope is in you.** (psalm 39:4-7) .

**Song of Prayer**

*I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

**No. 2129**

**Invocation**

**We come from ashes. But by Your creative power, O God, we are so much more than ashes. During this Holy Lent, may we be scrubbed clean by the fresh wind of your Holy Spirit, so that all that is dying or dead in us may be removed, and we start a fresh season of growth in your Son, Jesus. By the power of your Holy Spirit, guide and empower us in our prayers, our presence before you, our gifts, our service, and our witness to your Son. Amen.**

**Old Testament Lesson**

**Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17**

**Epistle Lesson**

**2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10**

**Gospel Lesson**

**Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21**

**Message**

**Rev. Chuck Layton**

## Prayer of Confession

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

*Pause here.*

*Examine your life, and confess your sins to God.*

You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

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

Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

(Psalm 51:1-12)

## Words of Assurance

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. Friends, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. **Amen.**

## Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

*How Can We Sinners Know*

Wesley



*Ash*  
WEDNESDAY

## Thanksgiving Over the Ashes

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray together:

**Almighty God, you gathered up a handful of dust and ashes and created us from them. May these ashes remind us both of our mortality and our weakness in the face of sin. Let them remind us that it is only by your loving gift of salvation that we are given everlasting life through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## Imposition of Ashes

**Hymn of Dedication**

*You Are Mine*

**No. 2218**

## Blessing

Ashes seem to signal destruction, but they are the result of cleansing fire.

**We rejoice at the room for new growth that fire has brought.**

**Postlude**

*Lamb of God We Fall Before Thee*

Marksworth

## Worship Leaders:

Rev. Chuck Layton, Pastor | Lori Nelson, Organist | Emily Forssberg, Vocals | Sam Anderson, Liturgist

Sally Thurman, Videographer and Video Editor

