



February 17, 2021

7:00 pm

Welcome

*Call to Worship

The dust that shapes the journey, **the cross that guides it**,
the color that surrounds it, **the light that fades through it**,
the word that foretells it, **the wilderness that invites it**.

This is Lent, and into its wilderness, God calls us.

Come, brothers and sisters, Christ is heading for Jerusalem.

*Opening Prayer

Merciful and Loving God, as we gather this night, bless us as we begin the long journey to the cross. Come to this place and remember your covenant with us. Remember the promise you made with us mere mortals to remain with us despite our dust. Shower your Spirit upon us for we need direction on this long road ahead. Care for us, as we travel this winding road, following the faithful path of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Song - *Change My Heart, O God*

TFWS # 2152

Change my heart oh God / Make it ever true
Change my heart oh God / May I be like You
You are the potter / I am the clay
Mold me and make me / This is what I pray
Change my heart oh God / Make it ever true
Change my heart oh God / May I be like You

Scripture

Isaiah 64:6; Hebrews 11:24-26; 1 Peter 2:24

Sermon

“Playing in the Mud” Rev. Nancy Wilson

Prayer over the Ashes

Receiving of Ashes

From dust you have come.

To dust I shall return.

Receiving Clean Hands

Go and sin no more.

Video Song - *Give Us Clean Hands*

Assurance from God's Word *(Ezekiel 36:25-27)*

Closing Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, we enter this season of Lent with humility, aware of our own mortality and sinfulness. Encourage us with your presence, that we may empty ourselves of whatever separates us from you and one another. Teach us to rely on no strength but yours, as we journey toward your kingdom through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Benediction

Postlude

**Please rise in body or spirit*

God desires clean hands and a pure heart
Psalm 24:4

What is Lent?

Lent is the 40-day period of repentance and renewal preceding Easter. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with the worship service on Easter. The word "lent" is derived from the Old English word "lencten," which means "lengthen." It refers to the lengthening of the daylight hours that occurs as spring approaches. Lent is a special time for meditation and prayer, giving us time to recall the Easter story and absorb its meaning – that Christ lived and died to redeem the world from sin.



On Thursday, February 18, Melrose will be hosting "A Time of Lenten Reflection" -- a time for individuals/households to come for a few minutes and sit quietly in the sanctuary, to listen to music playing softly as well as an opportunity to come and light a candle or participate in other reflective practices. Gatherings will take place in 15-minute increments beginning at 4:00 pm and registration is required (as are masks and social distancing). You can register at our website (melrosechapel.com). Once slots are chosen, they are removed from the list.

Melrose Chapel United Methodist Church

3600 Payson Road, Quincy, IL 62305

melrosechapel.com



Playing in the Mud

ASH WEDNESDAY

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