

***Chiming of the Hour**

An Interpretation of Lent and Ash Wednesday

***The Call to Worship**

Come, young and old... Sanctify yourselves before the Lord.

We gather to hear the word of God.

Come, and do not delay... Return to God.

We gather to be in the presence of God.

Come, cry out to God... Trust in God's mercy.

We gather to renew our spirits, as we acknowledge our failings before God.

*Hymn "Take Time to Be Holy" UMH 395

***The Opening Prayer**

We turn to you, God of life, on this first day of Lent, as we recall our own mortality. With hearts torn open by our actions, we need your guidance and your healing forgiveness. Ready us to receive your mercy and grace, and cleanse us of the ash of human failing, that we may embrace the words you speak—words that lead to eternal life. In Christ we Pray. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (With thoughts from the Psalm 51)

In preparation, present yourselves before God. Come in your brokenness, acknowledging where you have fallen short of God's expectations and of your own.

[Time of silent reflection.]

Have mercy on me, O God according to your steadfast love.

The brokenness that hinders me, I lay before you.

Come in your pain, acknowledging your hurt and accepting how you have hurt others.

[Time of silent reflection.]

Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

All the pain I have in my life—the pain I have caused and the pain I feel I lay before you.

Come in your weakness, acknowledging your lack of confidence to do what is right.

[Time of silent reflection.]

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

The weakness that holds me captive, I lay before you.

Come in your fear, acknowledging your failure to seek justice.

[Time of silent reflection.]

Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

The fear that binds me, I lay before you.

Come in your hesitancy, acknowledging your resistance to God's call.

[Time of silent reflection.]

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

My hesitancy in doing your will, I lay before you.

Come in your failings, acknowledging what you have done and left undone.

[Time of silent reflection.]

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

The hollowness that saps my strength and leaves me lifeless, I lay before you.

All that we are, all that we have done all that we confess, we lay before you. O God.

Relieve the weight of the burden, I lay before you. Amen.

Words of Assurance (With thoughts from Joel 2)

The prophet Joel reminds us that God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. With great mercy, God relents from punishing and calls us into fullness of life. In God's grace, know that you are forgiven.

In God's grace, I know that I am forgiven.

In God's mercy, know that you are made new.

In God's mercy, I know that I am made new.

In God's love, know that you are made whole.

In God's love, I know that I am made whole.

***Hymn** “More Love to Thee, O Christ” UMH 453
Epistle 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 p. 1741
Gospel Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21 p. 1456
Sermon *Getting What You Deserve*

Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

The Receiving of God’s Tithes and Our Offering

Offertory

*The Doxology

*The Prayer of Dedication

Almighty God, we come before you tonight to offer you far more than our money. We offer our very lives to you, as a living sacrifice. We offer our simple and honest selves, for you delight not only in praise, but also in repentance. We offer our failings and faults, for you desire not only glory, but also confession of our sorrow and our sin. Lord of Life, take the whole of our offering this night, for you have the power to make it beautiful and whole in your sight. **Amen.**

Consecration of 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

***Hymn** “I Surrender All” UMH 354

Benediction

With the ash of repentance, we have entered Lent.

With contrite hearts, we await our Lord.

Go forth and make preparations to receive the power of God.

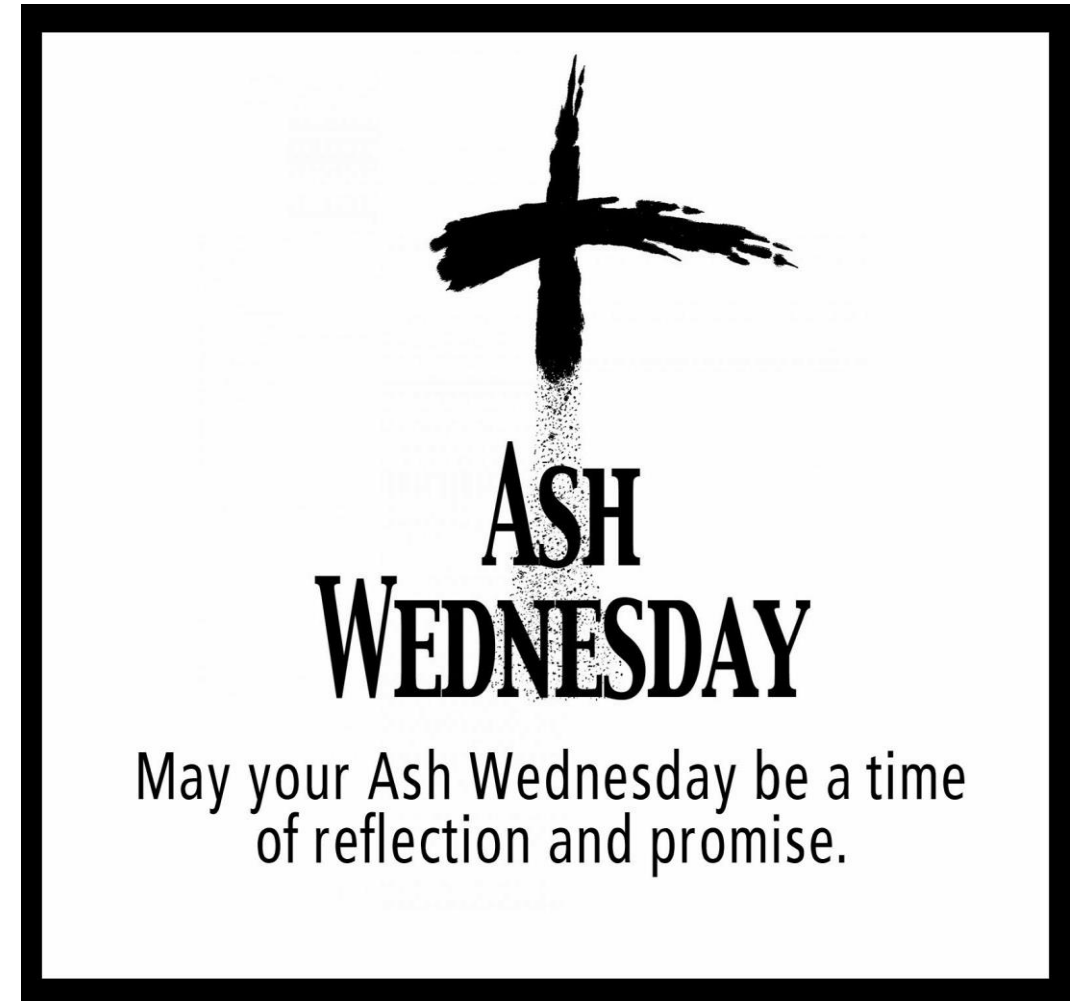
Amen.

Fletcher’s Chapel United Methodist Church

8330 Fletcher’s Chapel Road, King George, VA 22485

www.fletcherschapel-kinggeorge-va.org

Church: (540) 775-7247 Parsonage: (540) 625-2539



Ash Wednesday, Feb 26, 2020 7:00 p.m.