



“Return to me with all your heart”

~ Joel 2:12

*Trinity United Methodist Church
Alexandria, Virginia*

*Ash Wednesday
March 6, 2019
Seven-thirty in the evening*



CONNECTING
GROWING
SERVING
CELEBRATING

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

**Please stand in body and/ or spirit.*

*Please silence all electronic devices out of reverence for God and respect for fellow worshipers.
Childcare for preschool aged children (birth-preK) is available in our nursery (downstairs, room 105).*

- PRELUDE *Have Mercy on Me, O Lord God* J.S. Bach
- WORDS OF WELCOME Pastor Grace Han
Welcome to Trinity United Methodist Church. God's love be in us and among us as we greet all who enter our doors as children of God.
- *CALL TO WORSHIP Susan Collins
Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful.
Let us Return to the Lord.
Return with all your heart,
with fasting, weeping, and mourning.
Let us Return to the Lord.
Return to the Lord who forgives our sins
and heals our brokenness.
Let us Return to the Lord.
- *HYMN *What Wondrous Love is This* Hymnal no. 292
- *UNISON PRAYER
**O God, creator of all and judge of all that you have made,
from the dust of the earth you have formed us
and from the dust of death you would raise us up.
May the ashes placed upon our foreheads this day
remind us of who we are, and whose we are.
Draw us back to you, O God,
for you are gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.
Heal the hardness of our hearts,
that we may be faithful disciples of your Son, Jesus Christ,
the ones who makes all things new. Amen.**
- SCRIPTURE LESSON Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Pew Bible, OT, Page 846 Susan Collins
- CHORAL ANTHEM *Parce Domine* Felix Nowowiejski
Lord, spare your people, do not be angry at us forever. Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy.
- PSALM Psalm 51:1-17 Hymnal no. 785
Please sing Response 1 after the choir introduces it. Then sing the response, without introduction, at each red R.
- CHORAL ANTHEM *Cor Mundum Crea In Me Deus* Howard Helvey
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me; Cast me not 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.
- *GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 Pew Bible, OT, Page 845
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**
- MEDITATION "Return to Me with All Your Heart" Pastor Grace Han

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

THANKSGIVING OVER ASHES

Pastor Grace Han

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Pastor Grace Han

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

based on Psalm 51

Pastor Grace Han

Holy God,

wash us thoroughly of our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin.

For our transgressions are ever before us,

and we have done what is evil in your sight.

You desire truth in our inward being;

yet we turn our back on the wisdom you would impart to our hearts.

Create in us a clean heart, O God,

and put a new and right spirit within us.

Do not cast us away from your presence,

and do not take your Holy Spirit from us.

Forgive our sins, and lead us in your paths anew,

that we might teach transgressors your ways

and lead sinners to return to you. Amen.

(Silent Prayer of Confession)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy 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 trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

*HYMN

Take My Life, and Let It Be

Hymnal no. 399

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastor Grace Han

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

As you leave the sanctuary, offer one another signs of grace, peace, and love.

This Ash Wednesday worship service marks the beginning of the Christian season of Lent. The season of Lent began as a time of preparation for new believers who were to be baptized at Easter. Over time, others began to share this journey of preparation, and the season became a significant part of the church's journey through the year.

During Lent, we turn to God through repentance, fellowship, prayer, fasting, and concentrate upon our baptismal covenant as we prepare to share in the death and resurrection of Christ. The use of ashes in this service is a sign of our mortality and need for repentance. The ashes are prepared from the palm leaves used in worship during the precious Palm Sunday. Thus, the ashes remind us of the fragility of human devotion and of how quickly we can go from celebrating Christ's love and power to participation in those acts that led to his crucifixion. Receiving ashes remind us that God's love, which was so deeply revealed upon the cross, is triumphant over sin and death. In Christ, mortality is overcome for us and we are set free to trust in the promise of the resurrection.

WE INVITE YOU TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

Lenten Sermon Series - The Good News of Jesus Christ: A Study Through the Gospel of Luke

Starting this Sunday, March 10th, we begin our sermon series through the Gospel of Luke. Our congregation is challenged to read through the Gospel of Luke together and to grow deeper in our faith. Sunday school for all ages is at 10 AM, worship is at 11 AM.

Lenten Suppers

During the season of Lent, we will be gathering for Lenten Suppers on Sunday evenings at 5:30 PM hosted by members of our church. In a season of reflection and preparation, we invite you to join us for one of the dinners and discussion (led by Pastor Grace) drawing from the Luke readings from the prior week. Our first supper is this Sunday, March 10th. We invite you to RSVP for one of the suppers on the back of tonight's Connection Card and place in the basket in the Narthex or contact the church office at office@trinityalexandria.org.

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Tonight's anthems: *Parce Domine* is a chorus from Nowowiejski's oratorio *Kreuzauffindung* (The Finding of the Cross, Op. 35.) Written in 1905, the oratorio tells of the decline and ruin of Jerusalem and its people who pursue earthly delights and vain hopes. *Parce Domine* is a setting of a plainsong melody appointed for times of penance. In the oratorio, it is sung by a chorus of pilgrims who beg God for his forgiveness. Nowowiejski (1877-1946) was a well known composer and conductor during the first half of the 20th century in his native Poland. *Cor Mundum Crea In Me Deus* by Holward Helvey (b. 1968) is a setting of Psalm 51:10-12 commissioned by the Chancel Choir of Manchester UMC, Missouri in 2006. Helvey is in frequent demand as a composer, arranger, conductor, speaker and pianist, and is especially known for his choral compositions.



Trinity United Methodist Church

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Monday - Thursday 9 AM - 5 PM | Friday 9 AM - 2 PM

Find us on the Web: www.trinityalexandria.org | Facebook: *Trinity UMC-Alexandria*

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Alexandria District Superintendent
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Head of School, Trinity Preschool
Office Manager, Trinity Preschool
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