

---

## Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church

---

7:00 pm

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2018

---

\*You are welcome to stand as you are able. **Congregational parts in bold.**

### CENTERING MUSIC

Please ponder this quote in you meditations as you prepare and center yourself for worship:

*Most gracious God we come praying on this Ash Wednesday as we remember our Lord Jesus' trek toward Calvary. Thank you for such love, Amen.*

### THE MEANING OF ASH WEDNESDAY

Pastor Wendee Nitz

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We have left many important pursuits to gather here.  
In these moments, worship is of first importance.

**P: Together, we begin a season of self-examination.  
We begin a humble walk with God through Lent.**

L: This is a time for building spiritual disciplines.  
Those disciplined by Christ become disciples.

**P: We seek to follow in the steps of Jesus.  
We want to walk in the paths where Christ leads.**

L: May God empower us here with genuine righteousness.  
Let patience, kindness, and truthful speech prevail.

**P: We seek knowledge and the will to live by it.  
We seek community and the capacity to share it.**

### \*OPENING SONG

*Just as I Am, Without One Plea*

*Red Hymnal pg. 357*

### \*OPENING PRAYER

**Send your Holy Spirit on this gathering of seeking people, O God of our salvation. Open our hearts to receive your gifts. Open our minds to think new thoughts. Open our hands in generous sharing. Open our lips to declare your praise. Keep us from pious pretension, that we may approach you with genuine yearning to please you, not to impress others. We hear you calling us: Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation. Here we are, God. We seek your healing touch. Amen.**

### ANTHEM

*Written in Red*

Altar Choir

### CALL TO CONFESSION

The prophet Joel warned that the day of God's coming would be full of clouds and gloom. Yet, God would be merciful to all who turned back with their whole being to worship and walk in God's way. As we gather in the solemn assemble in response to God's invitation, we ask God to spare us, to make us whole and to restore us to faithful service in Christ's name.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love. According to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin. We confess before you the sins we recognize in our individual lives and in the faith community, your church. Hear us as we recall them in silent communion with you . . . (please pause for a moment of silent prayer) . . . Help us, O God, to be truthful with ourselves and with one another, and with you. Spare your people, and guide us through our difficult walk with Christ amid the challenges we face on the way to the cross. Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

In steadfast love, God welcomes and forgives us, restoring to us the joy of salvation. Our contrite hearts and willing spirits can receive God's reconciling gifts. In secret, quiet times with God every day, we will know that in Christ we possess everything we need.

### SONG FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 51:1-17

*Red Hymnal pg. 785*

### HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

798/846  
*Old Testament/Pew Bible*

### GOSPEL READING

Mathew 6:1-6, 16-21

5/5

L: A word for God's people

*New Testament/Pew Bible*

**P: Thanks be to God**

### MESSAGE

*Three Questions*

Pastor Wendee Nitz

### SONG OF PRAYER

*It's Me, It's Me, O Lord*

*Red Hymnal pg. 352*

### SILENT PRAYER and PRAYERS FOR ONE VOICE

### 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 sins\*, as we forgive those who sin 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.**

*(\*may also say trespasses or debts)*

SERVICE OF COMMUNION WITH IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(see insert)

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP *(All who love the Lord and desire to be in relationship with their neighbors are welcome at the Lord's table. If you happen to have brought an offering to share with God through the ministries of this congregation, please bring it forward as you come up to the front of church to receive communion. Please come forward by the center aisle, receive communion and the imposition of ashes, and then return by the side aisle. Communion is by intinction - dipping the bread into the cup. Please return to your pew to be in prayer.)*

COMMUNION SONG

*In Remembrance*

Doug C

\*SONG OF PRAISE (sung)

*Red Hymnal pg. 94*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

\*WE SAY THANK YOU TOGETHER

**Receive, O God, our broken and contrite hearts, our restored and committed spirits, our renewed dedication of all we possess and all we are. Thank you for this day of salvation. Thank you for the daily presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Thank you for your promise to teach us the ways of steadfast love, purity, holiness, truthfulness, and power to accomplish the tasks you set before us. Amen.**

\*CLOSING SONG

*Lord, I Want to be a Christian*

*Red Hymnal pg. 402*

\*A GOOD WORD AS WE GO OUT

\*CLOSING MUSIC

---

**Mission Statement:**

Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church is a Christian fellowship whose mission is to: worship God, love and serve all people, grow in faith and invite others to become disciples of Jesus Christ.

---

Phone: (414) 762-4600 / Email: [office@occum.org](mailto:office@occum.org) or [pastor@occumc.org](mailto:pastor@occumc.org)

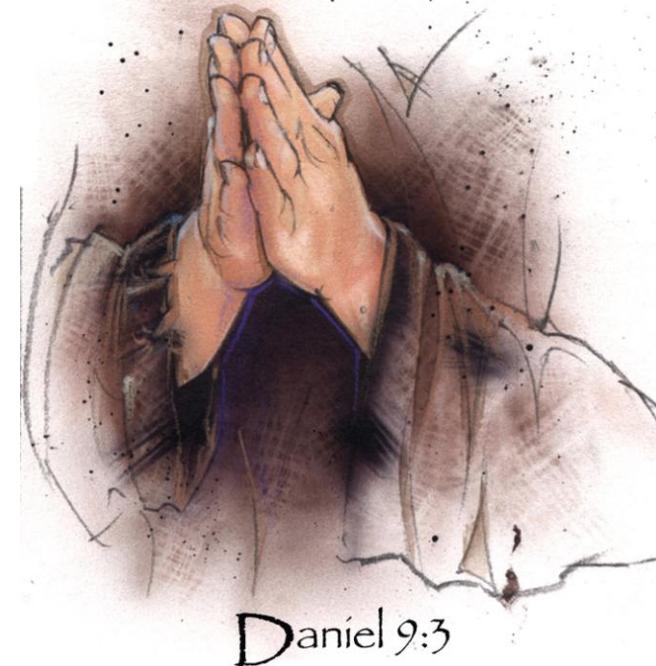
Website: <http://www.occumc.org> / Newsletter Editor: [office@occumc.org](mailto:office@occumc.org)

Find us on Facebook! [facebook.com/occumc](https://www.facebook.com/occumc)

---

**No matter where you are on your journey, ALL are welcome here.**

I turned to the Lord God and  
pleaded with him in prayer  
and petition, in fasting,  
and in sackcloth and ashes.



***Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church***

February 14, 2018 – Ash Wednesday

## COMMUNION LITURGY FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

L: The Lord be with you.

**P: and also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**P: We lift them up to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

L: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth. You brought all things into being and called them good. From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights, you bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family, and made covenant with every living creature on earth. When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights, you gave us your commandments and made us your covenant people. When your people forsook your covenant, your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights; and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**P: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

L: Holy are you, and blessed is your son Jesus Christ. When you gave him to save us from our sin, your Spirit led him into the wilderness, where he fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for his ministry. When he suffered and died on a cross for his love for you, you raised him to life, presented him alive to the apostles during forty days, and exalted him at your right hand. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter, you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts, that during these coming forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

L: On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

L: When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

L: And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**P: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

L: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

**P: Amen.**

## BLESSING OF THE ASHES

L: Loving 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.

**P: Amen.**