

# ST. LUKE'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

727 N. Main St.  
Independence, Missouri 64050  
Church Phone: 816-461-0302  
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Margie Foley, Organist/Pianist  
Matthew Bennett, Conductor/Violinist

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Pastors Emeriti: Rev. David Lyon & Rev. Ralph Koch

\*If comfortable doing so, you are invited to stand.

**The hymns tonight come from The Methodist Hymnal.**

**FEBRUARY 18, 2026**

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**SILENT MEDITATION:** "And you? When will you begin that long journey into yourself?" --Rumi

## GATHERING MUSIC

### GREETING

### PRELUDE

"God so Loved the World"

John Stainer

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 415 "Take Up Thy Cross"

GERMANY

"Take up thy cross," the Savior said, "if thou wouldst my disciple be;  
deny thyself, the world forsake, and humbly follow after me."

Take up thy cross, let not its weight fill thy weak spirit with alarm;  
his strength shall bear thy spirit up, and brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.

Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame, nor let thy foolish pride rebel;  
thy Lord for thee the cross endured, to save thy soul from death and hell.

Take up thy cross and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down;  
for only those who bear the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown.

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather as a community to weep.

**All: We come with awareness of our frailties and failures.**

One: We gather as a community to pray.

**All: We return to the LORD, seeking mercy and grace.**

One: We gather as a community to watch.

**All: We see the steadfast love of God spilling into the depths of the earth.**

One: We gather as a community to rejoice.

**All: We empty ourselves to receive the fullness of God's mercy and grace.**

## \*PRAYER (Unison)

**Ever-present God, we fall silent tonight in order to listen to what your Spirit would speak to us. If we cannot understand your silence, we will never understand your words. Give us the patience to listen to your still small voice. Give us the desire to respond to your call. Give us boldness to be honest about who we are and who you call us to be. Give us hope that lifts our spirits from places of abiding sorrow to newness of joy. Amen**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

"Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone"

George N. Allen

## SCRIPTURE

Psalm 130

## REFLECTION

"Into the Depths"

## \*CALL TO CONFESSION

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

Help us, O God, to be truthful with ourselves, with one another, and with you. Our souls are weary beneath the weight of pride and arrogance. Our pretentious words have become no more than groans, longing for restored fellowship with you and connection to one another. We acknowledge our sin. Our iniquity we do not hide. We humbly confess our transgressions and seek your forgiveness. Renew our souls and raise us up to newness of life, through Christ, our Lord. Amen

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**      **Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 430 "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"

MARYTON

O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free;  
tell me thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;  
teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me thy patience; still with thee in closer, dearer company,  
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong;

In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way,  
in peace that only thou canst give, with thee, O Master, let me live.

**BLESSING OF ASHES  
IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

From "Blessing the Dust" by Jan Richardson

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 515 "Out of the Depths I Cry to You" (VS 1,3)

AUS TIEFER NOT

Out of the depths I cry to you; O Lord, now hear me calling,  
Incline your ear to my distress in spite of my rebelling.

Do not regard my sinful deeds. Send me the grace my spirit needs; without it I am nothing.

It is in God that we shall hope, and not in our own merit;  
we rest our fears in God's good Word and trust the Holy Spirit,  
whose promise keeps us strong and sure; we trust the holy signature inscribed upon our temples.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

William H. Doane

The Liturgist tonight is John Kritos.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO THE LENTEN STUDY**

The Lenten Study "**If These Walls Could Talk**", will begin on Tuesday, February 24th, at 7 PM.  
It will continue on Tuesdays, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, & 24<sup>th</sup>.  
It will be hybrid, both in person and on Zoom. The Zoom link will be emailed on Tuesday mornings.

The Zoom recording will be posted in Windows into  
St. Luke's Facebook Group on Wednesdays.