

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
14 FEBRUARY 2018 - ASH WEDNESDAY**



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

We are stardust
Billion year old carbon
We are golden
Caught in the devil's bargain
And we've got to get ourselves
Back to the garden
-Joni Mitchell

*Please stand in body or spirit. Please silence cell phones.

GATHERING MUSIC

O Mortal, Mourn Your Sin

J. S. Bach

INVITATION TO BE HERE NOW

Lydia Mulkey

Be here, in this sacred place. Put away the pressures of the world that ask us to perform, to take up masks, to put on brave fronts. Silence the voices that ask you to be perfect. You are dust, and to dust you shall return. This is a community of compassion and welcoming. There is grace for you here.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Out of nothingness we came through birth into life:

Into God's Spirit.

From the life of God, the universe exploded into being:

Into God's Spirit.

At our death our bodies return to dust and our spirits to God:

Into God's Spirit.

SILENCE

PROPHET READING

Joel 2:16-18

Deborah Kapp

HYMN

Sing Out! We're Made of Common Dust

O WALY WALY

Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

**Sing out! We're made of common dust;
One day, to dust we shall return!
Yet, God, you've placed your mark on us
And so for you our spirits yearn.**

**This gift of ashes we receive
Reminds us we belong to you.
You call us to repent, believe,
and seek your Way in all we do.**

**The dust and dirt of children's play,
of youthful times, of working years
Are part of life — and life's decay;
We wash the dust with sorrow's tears.**

**We sing, O God, of what you give:
This ash reminds us we are yours.
In life we're claimed, in death we live!
In Christ our life, your love endures.**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 6:19-20

Deborah Kapp

INVITATION TO LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Alicia Reese

FEAST AND FAST

You will be invited to consider your Lenten fast and your Lenten feast as you engage two prayer stations.

Feast: What will you feast on during this Lenten season? Prayer? Kindness? Generosity? Write your feast on a block and build up this community through your practice.

Fast: What will you fast from during this Lenten season? Gossip? Denial? Judgement? Gluttony? Sloth? Write your fast on a piece of dissolving paper, drop it in the water, and watch it dissolve as a symbol of its absence from your life during this season.

MUSIC FOR PRAYER

Variations on O Waly, Waly

Janet Linker

HEBREW READING

Genesis 2:4-7

Deborah Kapp

THE STORY

Lydia Mulkey

HYMN

You Make Beautiful Things

**You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us**

BLESSING THE DUST: A BLESSING FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Deborah Kapp
By Jan Richardson

All those days
you felt like dust,
like dirt,
as if all you had to do
was turn your face
toward the wind
and be scattered
to the four corners
or swept away
by the smallest breath
as insubstantial—
Did you not know
what the Holy One
can do with dust?
This is the day
we freely say
we are scorched.
This is the hour
we are marked
by what has made it
through the burning.
This is the moment
we ask for the blessing
that lives within
the ancient ashes,

that makes its home
inside the soil of
this sacred earth.
So let us be marked
not for sorrow.
And let us be marked
not for shame.
Let us be marked
not for false humility
or for thinking
we are less
than we are
but for claiming
what God can do
within the dust,
within the dirt,
within the stuff
of which the world
is made,
and the stars that blaze
in our bones,
and the galaxies that spiral
inside the smudge
we bear.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

You are invited to receive ashes, our reminder that we are dust and to dust we shall return. The ashes are from the palm branches used last Palm Sunday, burned by our 8th Grade Church School Class.

ANTHEM

Call to Remembrance

Richard Farrant

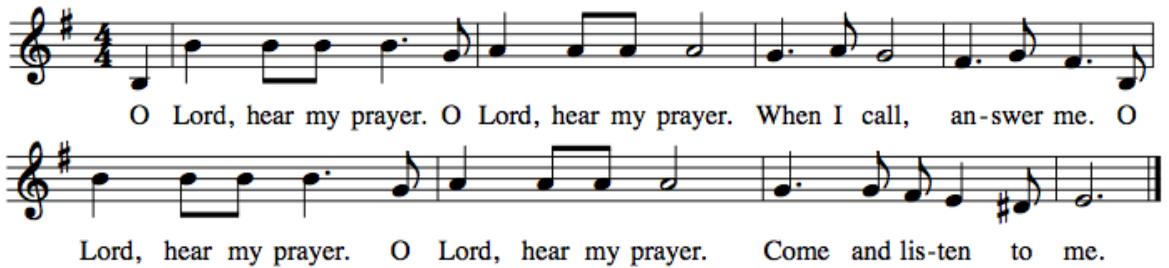
Call to remembrance, O Lord, thy tender mercy and thy loving kindness, which hath been ever of old. O remember not the sins and offenses of my youth, but according to thy mercy, think thou on me, O Lord, for thy goodness.

SILENCE

CHANT

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Jacques Berthier



O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, an-swer me. O
Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis-ten to me.

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Alicia Reese

Prayer for Ash Wednesday by Christine Sine

We have chosen to fast, not only with ashes, but with actions.
Not with sackcloth, but with sharing.
Not in thoughts, but in deeds.

Let the ashes speak of our commitment.

We give up our abundance, to share our food with the hungry.
We give up our comfort to provide homes for the destitute.
We will give up our fashions to see the naked clothed.
We will share where others hoard,
We will free where others oppress.
We will heal where others harm.

Let the ashes speak of our commitment.

Then God's light will break out on us,
God's healing will quickly appear.
God will guide us always,
We will be like well-watered gardens.
Repairers of broken walls, builders of sustainable cities.

Let the ashes speak of our commitment.

To God's ways and to God's purposes.
A new world coming, where we will feast together, at God's banquet table. Amen.

CHANT

God to Enfold You

Iona Community



God to en - fold you, Christ to up - hold you, Spi - rit to



keep you in hea - ven's sight; so may God grace you, heal and em -



brace you, lead you through dark - ness in - to the light.

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BLESSING FOR THE JOURNEY

Lydia Mulkey

When you feel ready, please depart the Sanctuary in silence. Offering baskets are available at the front and back entrances. You are invited to contribute to the ministries of First United.

LENTEN SPIRITUAL PRACTICES AT FIRST UNITED

LENTEN BOOK GROUPS – VARIOUS TIMES AND LOCATIONS. During the season of Lent, book groups will be gathering to read one of two books: "Dare We Speak of Hope?" by Allan A. Boesak and "Accidental Saints" by Nadia Bolz-Weber. You can sign up online at <http://bit.do/lentgroups> or on the sign-up sheet at the Lounge desk. Books are available locally at Magic Tree Bookstore. Groups will begin meeting the week of February 18 and meet for five weeks. Contact Britt Cox if you have questions or need help signing up, bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com.

LENTEN PRAYER STATIONS - Deacons available on Wednesday evenings for prayer. Throughout Lent, our sanctuary will be filled with interactive prayer stations. Engage them as many times as you would like between February 14 and March 31. The stations make up a prayer journey that can be taken alone, with a friend or with your family. This journey is open to all ages and stages of faith. Every Wednesday evening from 6:30-7:15 p.m. Deacons will be available in the sanctuary for prayer. Blessings on your journey through Lent.

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