



**Order of Worship
March 2, 2022**

7:00 PM

*Online Worship
YouTube Channel "Harmony UMCVA"*

Prelude

Behold the Man

The prelude signals the beginning of our sacred time together. During the prelude, you are invited to prepare your heart for worship by focusing your attention upon God.

Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

God's mercy endures for ever.

Opening Prayer

God, maker of every thing and judge of all that you have made, from the dust of the earth you have formed us and from the dust of the earth you would raise us up. By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit, that we may repent of our sins and lead lives worthy of your calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn (See last page)

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

UMH 269

Scripture Lesson

Joel 2:1 -2, 12-17

An Army of Locusts

2 Blow the trumpet in Zion;

 sound the alarm on my holy hill.

Let all who live in the land tremble,

 for the day of the Lord is coming.

It is close at hand—

² a day of darkness and gloom,

 a day of clouds and blackness.

Like dawn spreading across the mountains

 a large and mighty army comes,

such as never was in ancient times

 nor ever will be in ages to come.

Rend Your Heart

¹² “Even now,” declares the Lord,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting and weeping and mourning.”

¹³ Rend your heart
and not your garments.

Return to the Lord your God,
for he is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in love,
and he relents from sending calamity.

¹⁴ Who knows? He may turn and relent
and leave behind a blessing—
grain offerings and drink offerings
for the Lord your God.

¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion,
declare a holy fast,
call a sacred assembly.

¹⁶ Gather the people,
consecrate the assembly;
bring together the elders,
gather the children,
those nursing at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room
and the bride her chamber.

¹⁷ Let the priests, who minister before the Lord,
weep between the portico and the altar.

Let them say, “Spare your people, Lord.
Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn,
a byword among the nations.

Why should they say among the peoples,
“Where is their God?””

Psalm 51

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

**According to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.**

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin!

**For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.**

**Against you, you only, have I sinned,
and done which is evil in your sight.**

Behold, you desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

**Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow;**

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

Read Responsively

**Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your holy Spirit from me.**

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

**Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.**

Deliver me from death, O God, God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

**O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall show forth your praise.**

For you have no delight in sacrifice;
were I to give you burnt offerings, you would not be pleased.

**The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

Ministry of Music

Lamb of God

Choir

Gospel Reading

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Giving to the Needy

⁶ “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Prayer

⁵ “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Fasting

¹⁶ “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Treasures in Heaven

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Ash Wednesday Meditation

Pastor Debra

Invitation to Observe a Holy Lent

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:
the early Christians observed with great devotion
the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection,

and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration
there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation.
During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism.
It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins
and had separated themselves from the community of faith
were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness,
and restored to participation in the life of the Church.
In this way the whole congregation was reminded
of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ
and the need we all have to renew our faith.
I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church,
to observe a holy Lent:
by self-examination and repentance;
by prayer, fasting, and self-denial;
and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.
To make a right beginning of repentance,
and as a mark of our mortal nature,
let us now kneel before our Creator and Redeemer.

Confession and Pardon

In silence, let us call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God. After a few moments, Pastor Debra will begin the responsive prayer.

We have not loved you with all our heart, and soul, and mind, and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
Lord have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

We have been deaf to your call to serve.
We have been unfaithful, proud, and hypocritical.
Christ have mercy.
Christ have mercy.

We have been self-centered, and have taken advantage of others.
Lord have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

We have been envious of those more fortunate than ourselves.
Christ have mercy.
Christ have mercy.

We have loved worldly goods and comforts too much.
We have been dishonest in daily life and work.
Lord have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

We have neglected prayer and worship, and have failed to put forward the faith that is in us.
Christ have mercy.
Christ have mercy.

We have been blind to human need and suffering, and indifferent to injustice and cruelty.

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

We have thought uncharitably about others, and we have been prejudiced towards those who differ from us.

Christ have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

We have wasted and polluted your creation, and lacked concern for those who come after us.

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Together, let us pray:

Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done. We have sinned in ignorance: we have sinned in weakness: we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you. Forgive us, for our Savior Christ's sake, and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.

Prayer Over the Ashes

Pastor Debra

Loving God, you create us from the dust of the earth; may these ashes be for us a sign of our penitence and our mortality, and a reminder that only by the cross do we receive eternal life in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

*Those who desire to receive ashes come forward. The ashes are imposed with the following words:
Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.*

Words of Forgiveness

Through the cross of Christ, God has mercy on you, pardons you and sets you free. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal. Amen.

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 (See last page)

Shalom to You

UMH 666

Your Lenten Journey Begins

May God, who has forgiven us, now make us strong for these days ahead.

May Jesus lead us, and we be found faithful to follow.

May the Spirit drive us into the wilderness, burning away the chaff of our lives, and purifying our hearts for all to see and be blessed.

And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

Mercy, Master, and Fire,

Be with us and remain with us always!

People: Amen!

Postlude

Ah, Holy Jesus

Cruger

LORD, WHO THROUGHOUT THESE FORTY DAYS

*Lord, who throughout these forty days
for us didst fast and pray,
teach us with thee to mourn our sins
and close by thee to stay.*

*As thou with Satan didst contend,
and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight,
in thee to conquer sin.*

*As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst,
so teach us, gracious Lord,
to die to self, and chiefly live
by thy most holy word.*

*And through these days of penitence,
and through thy passiontide,
yea, evermore in life and death,
Jesus, with us abide.*

*Abide with us, that so, this life
of suffering over past,
an Easter of unending joy
we may attain at last.*

SHALOM TO YOU

*Shalom to you now, Shalom, my friends.
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom,
Christ be your shalom.*