



Tabor
Mennonite
Church

February 25, 2009 - 7:00pm

GATHERING

PRELUDE Karen Andres

WELCOME Corey Miller

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN "My Jesus, I love thee" No. 522

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

HYMN "Breathe on me, breath of God" No. 356

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE Psalm 51:1-17

A CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O, God, when we pause to look back at our lives on this Ash Wednesday, we realize that we have been weighed in the balance and found wanting.

We have neglected to do good when it was in our power to do so.

We, like believers of old, have pulled down your altars and erected idols crafted in our own image.

We have turned our backs on the poor, choosing instead to criminalize poverty.

We have ignored the cries of the motherless, the fatherless, the widow and the widower choosing instead to turn children and the elderly into the new poor.

We have bankrupted the country with our greed and consumed more than our share of the world's riches

We have not dealt honorably with our enemies or our friends, and we have feigned a place in the company of the righteous.

Forgive us, O God, for turning sackcloth and ashes into a fashion statement by pursuing form without substance.

Forgive us, O God, for the times we have neglected to provide our children and our world an authentic example of Christianity.

As we begin the journey of these 40 days, Wash us, O God and we shall be clean. Cleanse us, O Lord, and we shall be made whole. Amen.

(Silence)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Hear the Good News.
The LORD, our God, is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love (Joel 2:13).

God hears the earnest cries of the repentant and forgives our sins.

SONG "Create in Me" No. 76CS

EPISTLE READING II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

MEDITATION "Our lives are in your hands" Pastor Corey

SONG "Dust in the Wind" Doug Krehbiel and Laura Unruh

POEM "Marked by Ashes" -W. Brueggemann Pastor Karen

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND RECEIVING ASHES
Doug Krehbiel and Laura Unruh

CLOSING PRAYER

SONG OF THANKS "Sanctuary" No. 127CS

BENEDICTION

