

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Ash Wednesday ~ March 2, 2022

4:00 p.m. In Person & Live Streamed



The First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

184 Cherry Brook Road

Canton Center, CT 06020-0133

~ Order of Worship ~

**All who are able, please stand*

***Bold** denotes unison voice.*

CHIMES

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Savior, Redeemer of My Soul* Rob Gardner arr. Jenny Bradshaw

PRAYER FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT

...In his name and spirit we pray, as we also say together:

**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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 51:1-2, 6, 10-12; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

REFLECTION

RITUALS FOR LENT

Lighting the candles of honesty, repentance, and hope

The offering of ashes

PRAYER

***HYMN** *Come Down, O Love Divine* Pilgrim (red), 239

*Come down, O love divine, seek now this soul of mine,
And visit it with your own ardor glowing,
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
And kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.*

*O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let your glorious light shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me 'round, the while my path illuming.*

*And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace, till love creates the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes its dwelling.*

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** *Draw Me Near* Mary McDonald

Tim LeGeyt, Deacon
Casey Levine, camera
Mary Lou Keefe, Director of Music
The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka, Pastor

**Rend Your Heart:
A Blessing for Ash Wednesday**

*To receive this blessing, all you have to do
is let your heart break.*

*Let it crack open, let it fall apart, so you can see its secret chambers,
the hidden spaces where you have hesitated to go.*

Your entire life is here, inscribed whole upon your heart's walls:

every path taken or left behind,

every face you turned toward or turned away,

every word spoken in love or in rage,

every line of your life you would prefer to leave in shadow,

every story that shimmers with treasures known

and those you have yet to find.

It could take you days to wander those rooms.

Forty, at least.

And so let this be a season for wandering,

for trusting the breaking,

for tracing the rupture that will return you

to the One who waits and watches,

for remembering what God can do with dust.

-Jan Richardson