

# Solemn Vespers

For Ash Wednesday  
Christ United Methodist Church  
February 10, 2016

PRELUDE

“Forty Days and Forty Nights”-McCabe

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: O God, come to our assistance

**P: O Lord, hasten to help us.**

L: My soul yearns for you in the night. Those who sleep in the dust will awake and shout for joy; for your dew shines forth with sparkling light, and the earth will ring those long dead to birth again.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

“Just as I Am, Without One Plea”

UMH #357

EVENING PRAYER CANTICLE

I call to you, O God, come to me quickly;  
hear my voice when I cry for you.

Let my prayer rise before you like incense,  
and my hands like the evening sacrifice.

Keep guard over my mouth, O Lord;  
watch the door of my lips.

Keep my heart from slipping into evil;  
let me not be busy with evil doers.

My eyes are turned toward you, O Lord my God.  
In you I take refuge; do not deprive me of life.

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVATION OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

CONFESSION AND PARDON

In the dust of isolation and disconnectedness we cry to you, O Lord.

We have loved short-sightedly. We have trusted illusions.

We are left longing and grieving in space

That turns from grit and dust,

While an angel with whirling sword stands behind us.

Our brows bear the sign of our heart's ashes.

Our life is over like a sigh. In your cross is our only hope.

Come “wash again and ever again this soiled world”,

Through Christ, our only mediator and advocate.

**Amen.**

—silence—

“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance.” (Luke 5:31-32)

\*PSALTER

“Psalm 51:1-17”

UMH #785

—Silence—

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

We are touched and healed by the physician of our souls'; in the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

CANTICLE OF REDEMPTION

Out of the depths I cry to you, O God;

Lord, hear my voice.

Incline your ear to the voice of my supplication.

If you were to mark all iniquities,

O God, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you

That you may be worshiped.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,

And in God's word I hope;

My soul waits for the Lord

More than those who watch for the morning;

More than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, trust in the Lord;  
With God there is mercy and plenteous redemption  
For the Lord will redeem Israel from all iniquities.

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

READING FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND SUPPLICATION

—*Silent Prayer*—

CONCLUDING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN

**“Take Time to Be Holy”**

*UMH #395*

GOING FORTH

May the God of peace  
Make you holy in every way  
And keep your whole being—  
Spirit, soul, and body—  
At the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Interlude on “Ah, Holy Jesus”-Eliot

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*Vision: To be inspired by God's love to serve everyone.*

*Mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*