

A Way Not Our Own

First Church of Christ (UCC), Suffield
Second Baptist Church (ABC), Suffield
Rocky Hill Congregational Church(UCC)

Lenten Journey Together at Home

February 17, 2021

Ash Wednesday

PRELUDE

Sanctuary

Jill Wiganowski
First Church of Christ, UCC

WELCOME

All Three Churches

We are glad you are worshipping at Home with us! When we gather together for worship, we are entering into a larger story. We yearn for the Holy Spirit to enter into our spaces and illuminate our magnificent God as we seek to follow in the ways of Jesus the Christ.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Diann Bailey & David Figliuzzi

One: Let us look to Jesus, the example in our faith,

All: who for the joy that was waiting, endured the cross.

One: Jesus came to preach good news to the poor,

All: to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind,

One: to liberate those who are oppressed,

All: and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

HYMN

What Does the Lord Require for Praise?

Rev. Rachael Lawrence and Family
Second Baptist, Church

PSALM 5:7-8

Rev. Nada Sellers
Rocky Hill Congregational

Church

But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love,
will enter your house,

I will bow down toward your holy temple
in awe of you.

Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness
because of my enemies;
make your way straight before me.

O God of love and compassion, in the sufferings of all your children, we offer our compassion also for the hungry, the sick in body, mind or heart, the depressed and the lonely, all who live in fear and under stress, all stricken in grief, the unemployed and the rejected, and those burning with hatred. Strengthen us to work for their healing and inspire us to build with you the kingdom of love which is in your image and for which Christ is our example. We pray now together as Jesus taught his disciples to pray...

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, for ever. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

All Is Wonder

Julie Hagen

Rocky Hill Congregational Church

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 9:51-62

GIFT OF MUSIC

To The Cross

Amber Dawne Novotney
First Church of Christ, UCC

MEDITATION

David Figliuzzi, Seminarian
First Church of Christ, UCC

CONTEMPORARY SACRED READING

God's beloved dust,
fabric of the universe—
of planets newly discovered
and ruins ancient, broken
and us.

God's beloved dust,
we'll walk into wilderness
on a Wednesday—
a wilderness of words
and want
and wonder,
a wilderness for the wise
and the weary.

God's beloved dust,
ushered from pew to pastor,
they will pause.

Eyes averted
or closed
or resolute in meeting mine,
an awkward encounter
breaking the boundary of space—
to touch another's face
and to mark it
Mortal.

God's beloved dust,
thumb to forehead,
brokenhearted,
breaking with tradition,

Rev. Rachael Lawrence

I will say
to God's beloved dust—
to the squirming infant
barely a month from the womb,
to the mother, headscarfed,
halfway through chemotherapy,
to the wrinkled widow
well acquainted with ashes:
*Remember you are God's beloved dust
and to God's beloved dust you shall return.*
And we will watch and wait
to witness
what God can do
with God's beloved dust.

BLESSING OF THE ASHES

Burlap with Ash Cross

Diann Bailey & David Figliuzzi

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.
Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence,
so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift
are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

David Figliuzzi

Our gracious God, having refreshed us with these elements of your love, having given us the gift of reflection and humility, guide our steps as we walk again back into the world. We thank you for your presence as we are inspired to be your hand and voice to all who are wounded in body or spirit, and we ask your continued guidance as this season unfolds. Be our strength and wisdom, today and always. Amen.

BENEDICTION

David Figliuzzi

Though the night is dark, the Light of the world goes before you. God guides your steps and surrounds your life. Go in peace, ready to serve the One who has always loved you. AMEN.

POSTLUDE/MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

God's Beloved Dust: **Austin Crenshaw Shelley**