

Today's Worship Specialists

Officiate. Rev. Dr. Okitakoyi Lundula
Organist. Dr. Charles Barland
Liturgist. Carol Clark
Ushers/Greeters Gary & Kathy Reid



February 10, 2016
7:00 p.m.

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
1199 Main Street
Dubuque, IA 52001

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Prelude Dr. Charles Barland
Lighting of the Candles
Bringing the Light of Christ into our Worship
Welcome

**Called to Worship*

Leader: The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People: God's mercy endures forever.

*Opening Hymn *Sunday's Palm Are Wednesday's Ashes* FWS 2138

**Prayer of Confession* UMH 353

O God, maker of everything and judge of all that you have made, from the dust of the earth you have formed us and from the dust of death 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.

(All continue to pray in silence.)

Word of Assurance

May the Almighty and Merciful Lord grant us remission of all our sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the great consolation of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Anthem *Above All* Mark Hayes
Chancel Choir

Scripture Readings

Psalm 51:1-17
Joel 2:12-17
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-20

Message "Create in Me a Clean Heart" Pastor Lundula

Hymn of Response *Have Thy Own Way Lord* UMH 382

Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

Brothers and sisters in Christ: Christians have always observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection. It became the custom of the church to prepare for Easter by a season of penitence, fasting, and prayer. This season of forty days provided a time in which converts to faith were prepared for baptism into the body of Christ. It is also the time when persons who had committed serious sins and had been separated from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the church. The whole congregation is thus reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our baptism of faith.

I invite you, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent, by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving; and reading and meditating on the Word of God. To make a right beginning, and as a mark of our mortality, let us now bow before our Creator and Redeemer.

(A brief silence is kept.)

Thanksgiving Over the Ash

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Let us pray:

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 gifts are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Imposition of Ash

Leader: Repent and believe in the Gospel!
People: Amen

Dismissal Hymn *Lord, I Want to Be A Christian* UMH 402

**Benediction*

Going Forth in Silence