

**COLCHESTER FEDERATED CHURCH  
ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP  
MARCH 1, 2017**

The word "Lent" comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "*lencten*", meaning spring, or lengthen. As winter turns into spring, the days lengthen and the earth moves into a fresh season - and we pay more attention to the movement of the spirit in our lives. Lent invites the people of God to be in wonder about the mystery of faith and our mystical connection to Jesus Christ. We welcome each of you to this time of word, silence, prayer, and song.

**THE GATHERING**

PRELUDE

GATHERING WORDS

Who is it that you seek?

**WE SEEK THE LORD OUR GOD.**

Do you seek Him with all your heart?

**AMEN, LORD, HAVE MERCY.**

Do you seek Him with all your soul?

**AMEN, LORD, HAVE MERCY.**

Do you seek Him with all your mind?

**AMEN, LORD, HAVE MERCY.**

Do you seek Him with all your strength?

**AMEN, CHRIST, HAVE MERCY.**

GATHERING HYMN

***"Glorify Thy Name"***

***Insert***

INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

GREETING ONE ANOTHER

**THE HEARING**

READING FROM THE WORD: Psalm 51 ([Psalms Now](#))

In the shadow of your wings  
I will sing your praise, O Lord.

**The Lord is my light and my salvation;**

**Whom shall I fear?**

**The Lord is the refuge of my life;**

**Of whom shall I be afraid?**

In the shadow of your wings  
I will sing your praises, O Lord.

**One thing I ask of the Lord,  
One thing I seek;  
To dwell in the presence of my God,  
To gaze on your holy place.**

In the shadow of your wings  
I will sing your praises, O Lord.

**I believe I shall see the goodness  
Of the Lord in the land of the living.**

O wait for the Lord!  
Have courage and wait,  
Wait for the Lord!

**In the shadow of your wings  
I will sing your praises, O Lord.**

#### PREPARATION FOR PRAYER

(SILENT PRAYER)

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Forgive us, Lord, that we have not loved you with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength. Forgive us our coldness and indifference, our lack of constant love, our unbelief, our false pretenses, our refusal to understand your ways. Teach us your ways, O Lord, and let us walk in your truth. We put behind us our stubborn independence and turn once again to you. Be tender in your mercy, Lord, be tender in your mercy. Amen.**

#### SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

READING FROM THE WORD    2 Corinthians 5:16-21

CHORAL ANTHEM                    *"God Be In My Head"*

*Rutter*

#### MEDITATION

### **THE RESPONSE**

PRAYER (unison)

**O God, some of us ash our foreheads, others of us don't. Still others don't even think about ashes; we just color our spiritual lives gray. Ashes should not be a symbol of despair; Lent should be a season of renewal and hope. We humble our spirits today in preparation for the new life God offers to raise from our ashes.**

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(You are invited to the table, to visit the candle and the water, to take a shell and/or stone as a remembrance, and to receive ashes if you wish.)

(Unison) **So here we are, Lord. Send us first to our knees, admitting how we have left you out of our lives - and then to our rooms to secretly pray not only for ourselves, but also for your wide, wonderful world which so wholly ignores you. Finally, send us into that world, to tell it about the slowness of your anger and the quickness of your love. Amen.**

## HYMN

*"Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights"*

*Insert  
vs. 1-4*

## BENEDICTION

See that you be at peace among yourselves, my children,  
And love one another.  
Follow the example of good men and women of old  
**And God will comfort you and help you,  
Both in this world and in the world which is to come.**

## BLESSING

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,  
Wherever He may send you.  
May He guide you through the wilderness,  
Protect you through the storm.  
May He bring you home rejoicing  
At the wonders He has shown you.  
May He bring you home rejoicing  
Once again into our doors.  
**AMEN.**

You will find offering plates by the doors of the sanctuary if you would like to make a contribution to the budget. May this Lenten journey be a time of renewal and refreshment for your spirit!

# Glorify Thy Name

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C F/C C G7 F/G G7 C2 C Em7 C/E

1 Fa - ther, we love you, we wor-ship and a - dore you, glo - ri - fy thy  
 2 Je - sus, we love you, we wor-ship and a - dore you, glo - ri - fy thy  
 3 Spir - it, we love you, we wor-ship and a - dore you, glo - ri - fy thy

F C/G F/A Gsus G C F

name in all the earth; glo - ri - fy thy name,

E7sus D2/F# E7/G# Am F G/F F/A G7sus G7 F/A G7 F/C C

glo - ri - fy thy name, glo - ri - fy thy name in all the earth.

WORDS and MUSIC: Donna Adkins (1940- )

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# Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights 250

1 Through - out these Lent - en days and nights we  
 2 The pil - grim Christ, the Lamb of God, who  
 3 We bear the si - lence, cross and pain of  
 4 And though the road is hard and steep, the  
 5 So let us choose the path of One who  
 6 Re - joice, O sons and daugh - ters! Sing and

turn to walk the in - ward way, where, meet - ing Christ, our  
 found in weak - ness great - er power, em - brac - es us, though  
 hu - man bur - dens, hu - man strife, while sis - ters, broth - ers  
 Spir - it ev - er calls us on through Cal - vary's dy - ing,  
 wore, for us, the crown of thorn, and slept in death that  
 shout ho - san - nas! Raise the strain! For Christ, whose death Good

guide and light, we live in hope till Eas - ter Day.  
 lost and flawed, and leads us to his Ris - ing Hour.  
 help sus - tain our cour - age till the Feast of Life.  
 dark and deep, un - til we see the com - ing Dawn.  
 we might wake to life on Res - ur - rec - tion Morn!  
 Fri - day brings on Eas - ter Day will rise a - gain!

WORDS: James Gertmenian (1947- )  
 MUSIC: *Musikalisches Handbuch*, 1690; arr. William H. Havergal (1793-1870)  
 Winds © 1993 Hope Publishing Company

WINCHESTER NEW  
 8.8.8.8.

It is customary, Lord  
to give something up  
during the season of Lent.  
What would you have me do without?  
I who have so much.  
Chocolate?  
Cream cakes?  
Cigarettes?  
Sweets?  
Swearing?  
The list is endless  
and I could give up all those things  
for the span of 40 days  
quite easily and almost painlessly.  
But what difference would it make  
other than making me feel "holier"  
than my friend who makes no sacrifice?

What would you have me do without?  
I who have so much.  
Selfishness?  
Conceit?  
Envy?  
Pride?  
I fear before I ask,  
That the answer might be "yes"  
and the giving up  
would be all too real, Lord.  
It would be difficult,  
painful,  
sacrificial,  
a real cross to carry for 40 days  
and more?