**First United Church**



March 06, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.

*7 Curtis St., St.Thomas,*

 *ON N5P 1H3*

*Phone: (519) 631-7570*

**Welcome And Invitation**

We welcome everyone to this Ash Wednesday Service. It is the beginning of Lent, a journey of *self-examination, sober reflection,* and *spiritual renewal*, an opportunity to make new commitments to grow in faith. As we prepare for the journey, we set aside burdens that would weigh us down.

**Call To Worship**

L: Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet,

**All: They shall be like snow, though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.**

L: We come renting our hearts and not our clothing.

**All: We return to the Lord, our God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.**

 L: We know that we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are yet without sin.

**All: We approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

L: Come let us bow down and worship

**All: We worship our God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Hymn: VU#120** *“O Jesus I Have Promised (vv. 1 & 4)*

**Prayers**

***Responsive Reading*** – Psalm 51 (**VU 776 –** Refrain #2)

***Silence***

L: For the times when we are too rushed to care, when we are too

 tired to bother, when we don’t really listen, when we act from

 motives other than love,

**All: God, forgive us.**

***Silence***

L: For our incapacity to feel the sufferings of others, and our

 tendency to live comfortably with injustice,

All: **God, forgive us.**

***Silence***

L: For our failings in community, our lack of understanding,

**All: God, forgive us.**

***Silence***

**All: Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sins of the world,**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sins of the world,**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sins of the world,**

**grant us your peace.**

**We Listen For the Word Of God**

***Scripture Readings:*** *Isaiah 58:1-12; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-21*

Reader: For the wisdom that guided us.

**All: We praise you, O God.**

***Hymn:* MV#154***“Deep In Our Hearts”*

***Gospel Reading:*** Matthew 6:1-6

***Hymn:* VU#105** *“Dust and Ashes”* (v.1)

***Lenten Reflection***

**We Respond In Love**

***Ritual of Ashes***

***The Peace***

***Hymn:* VU#651***“Guide Me O, Thou Great Jehovah”*

***Dismissal with Blessings***

PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. What areas in my life seem crowded or cluttered at present?
2. What can I do to simplify these cluttered areas and thus recover a sense of peace and harmony in my daily living?
3. Lent is a season of preparation. I am going to prepare by making the following sacrifices or take these steps to make Lent a time of ***sober reflection, self-examination*** and ***spiritual renewal*** for me personally?