



First United Methodist Church



**Wednesday
Service**

February 21, 2007

8831 W. Bradshaw Street, Homosassa, Fl 34448
Rev. Mark, Whittaker, Senior Pastor
Steven Skelley, Youth Pastor
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A Stephen Ministry Church

PRELUDE:

“Symphony I”

By: Boyce/Johnson

OPENING PRAYER

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, Amen.

***HYMN**

“All Glory, Laud and Honor”

No. 280

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Leader: David’s story is a powerful one. He was loved by God, but he broke the trust of those around him. We, too, are good people, loved by God, yet we, too, miss the mark in big ways. David recognized his mistake and admitted it! He asked for God’s healing forgiveness.

People: What happens when we are confronted by our mistakes? Do we admit them as David did? Do we ask for God’s forgiveness?

Leader: God forgave David when he asked for forgiveness, and helped him face the consequences of his actions.

People: Let us now be as willing as David to reflect on the ways we have abused the trust of others.

Leader: We can also think about the loving things we know we should do, but don’t.

People: Or the ways we criticize and belittle others – our children, our partners, and groups in society that we fear.

Leader: We can think about the ways we act intolerantly toward those who differ from ourselves and how often we fail to listen, learn and respond to the crying injustices in our society.

Leader: I invite you now to think of at least one thing to confess in silence before God.

Leader: For each silent confession offered this day, hear this prayer, O God, and bring your healing forgiveness. Amen.



OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:

Joel 2:1-2 & 12-17

Pg. 901

***HYMN:**

“What Wondrous Love Is This

No. 292

PSALTER READING:

Psalm 51:1-17

**Hymnal Pg. 785
Response 1**

SPECIAL MUSIC:

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

Arr. Clancy



Tuned To Revival Quartet

GOSPEL LESSON

“Matthew 6:1-6 & 16-21”

Pg. 960

WITNESS TO THE WORD OF GOD

Steven Skelley

“Rediscovering What’s Really Important”



OFFERTORY:

“Abide, O Dearest Jesus”

Coe

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Observance of Lenten disciplines

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

The early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation.

During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism.

It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church.

In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent:

- By self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting and self-denial;
- And by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.
- To make a right beginning of repentance,
- And as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now bow before our Creator and Redeemer

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

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.

IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

A PRAYER: Lord God of hosts, make of us pilgrims throughout these forty days. Lead us through discipline to discipleship, through fasting to feasting, through privation to freedom. Free us from our own struggles, so that we may more fully serve one another. May we in thought, word and deed, be freed to proclaim the Good news of Your Love and the promise of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

HYMN

“Make Me a Captive, Lord”

No. 421



CHARGE & DISMISSAL:

Pastor: Now is the acceptable time, the day of salvation – Go out to tell the world of God's grace.

People: God restores to us the joy of salvation and sustains us with a willing spirit.

Leader: May Lent be not an outer show, but an inner discipline, a time for spiritual growth and shared commitment.

People: We will pray and serve, knowing that the God who sees even our inmost hearts will reward us.

BENEDICTION

The Lord deliver you from all evil, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, refresh you as you hunger for Him, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you now and remain in you always. AMEN

POSTLUDE:

“He Is Lord”

Arr. Sewell