

# Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025

9:00 a.m.

+ Indicates those times when all who are able may stand.  
**Bold indicates congregational response.**

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude                      *“Change My Heart, O God”*                      Espinosa

Call to Worship

If you have days when you feel a little bit lost and a little bit found,  
**then you are in the right place.**

If you have days when you are desperate for rest and eager to grow,  
**then you are in the right place.**

If you have days when your prayers could be both shouts and silence,  
**then you are in the right place.**

God meets us here, in the messy middle of our lives.

**So may we bring our full selves into this service and into this season.**

With God’s help, may it be so.

**Let us worship our all-loving God.**

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray:

**Holy God, Your invitation is simple. You lean in close. You say our name. With joy in your voice, you invite us to follow. But the noise of this world is distracting, and we are afraid, so we get stuck somewhere between our head and our heart. We get stuck somewhere between our intent and our action. So today we pray, speak to us again. Tell us the story. Invite us to follow. Speak once more, of good news that will not leave us alone. Speak to us again, for we are listening. Amen.**

First Reading of Scripture

Isaiah 58:1-12 NRSVUE

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...

**Thanks be to God!**

+ Opening Hymn No. 551                      *“As a Fire Is Meant for Burning”*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Jesus said, “Follow me.”

**And I said, let me get ready.**

Jesus said, “follow me.”

**And I said, just one minute!**

Jesus said, “Follow me.”

**And I said, I’ll be there soon!**

The invitation is simple, but the work is hard.

**Jesus, forgive my delay.**

I want to follow you.

**Turn my intentions into actions.**

Show me the way.

**Amen.**

*Silent Prayer*

Assurance of Grace

Lent asks, “How will you go deeper? How will you follow Christ?”  
Regardless of what that journey looks like for us, regardless of what today, tomorrow, or the next day brings, we are not alone.

**We are seen and loved by God. We are held in grace. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.**

Second Reading of Scripture

Luke 9:51-62 NRSVUE

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...

**Thanks be to God!**

Special Music

*“Down to the River to Pray”*

Chancel Choir

Reflection

+ Imposition of Ashes

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Our Savior

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 forever. Amen.

+ Closing Hymn No. 465

*“Lord, Be Glorified”*

+ Benediction

+ Postlude

*“Lenten Prayer”*

Glyncannon

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Service Prayers for Ash Wednesday by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC|  
sanctifiedart.org.

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Home Page address is: [www.zionunion.org](http://www.zionunion.org)

Office Hours: Monday-Friday-8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (closed Tuesdays)

Church Office: (636/583-2814) fax (636/583-7949)

**Pastor:** Rev. Nicholas Knoblauch

**Administrative Assistant:** Connie Thompson

**Minister to Youth & Families:** Alysha Petry

**Coordinator of Elementary Youth:** Mandy Frick

**Organist:** Brenda Herring

**Council President:** Fern Dewert

**Music Director:** Dr. Karen Stafford

**Church Custodian:** Joy Bradley



everything  
[in] between  
intention & action

+ Ash Wednesday +

March 5, 2025 + 6:30 p.m.

Zion United Church of Christ

Union, Missouri