



March 6, 2019 at 6:30pm  
Trinity United Methodist Church

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**A Word of Explanation and Direction**

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**Greeting**

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Minister: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Minister: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

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People: **God's mercy endures forever.**

People: **God's Mercy endures forever.**

**Opening Prayer** UMH #353

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**Hymn** UMH #269  
*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

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**Psalter** UMH #785  
Psalm 51

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**Gospel Lesson** NT, p. 787  
Matthew 6:1-6, 17-21

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**Sermon** Rev. Joseph James  
“To Dust You Shall Return”

**Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline**  
Rev. Angela H. Marshall

**Thanksgiving over the Ashes**

**Imposition of the Ashes**

**Confession and Pardon** UMH #890

**Word and Table III** UMH #15

**Hymn** UMH #357  
*Just As I Am*

**Dismissal with Blessing**

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*Today we begin a spiritual journey that will span forty days, from Ash Wednesday until Holy Saturday before Resurrection Sunday. Sundays are not included in the counting of these days as they are always to be considered “mini Easters.” In the early days of the Church, the season of Lent was a time of preparation for new converts as they readied their hearts to enter into Christian Baptism on Easter Sunday. Since these new members were to be received into a living community of faith, the entire community was called to preparation. Also, this was the time when those who had been separated from the Church because of explicit sin would prepare to rejoin the community of faith. Today, the season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, self-examination, and penitence for all Christians as we prepare to celebrate Easter. Through this forty-day journey, we are reminded that we are totally unworthy before God, that we have nothing with which we can obtain salvation, and that our best efforts at being righteous fall far short. You are invited to the observance of holy Lent through self-examination and repentance, prayer, fasting, and self-denial, and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word.*

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