

# HAPPY VALENTINE



Ash Wednesday Service

14 February 2024 at 7 pm.

Cause of Death

## MEDINA UCC, CONGREGATIONAL

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# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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## ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14, 2024

**PRELUDE** “Prelude from Three Short Moods for Lent” – A. Okolo-Kulaks Cathy Fafrak, Organist

## WELCOME

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Lent is not a negation.

**It is an affirmation of life's positive values, and its treasures.**

Lent is not doing without, but it is doing with.

**It is taking a greater interest in things crowded out in the hurry and worry of every day.**

It is a time when a community of faith may prove its value as a source and center dedicated to the enrichment of the Spirit among us.

**Let us not strive at too fast a pace for now is the time of our salvation.**

Life cannot be lived in hindsight;

**Nor can it be truly experienced in anticipation, only in this holy present.**

We put the failures and embarrassments of yesterday behind us.

**They will no longer rule us.**

We put tomorrow's anxiety and fears aside;

**We seek the precious ground of our being and commit to live more graciously each day.**

We have the ability to reflect the Divine now. It can only happen from lessons learned and redeemed.

**We learn from what we leave behind, from what we had to experience that has brought us to this place now. Thanks be to the God, whom we now worship. Amen!**

## HYMN

### “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

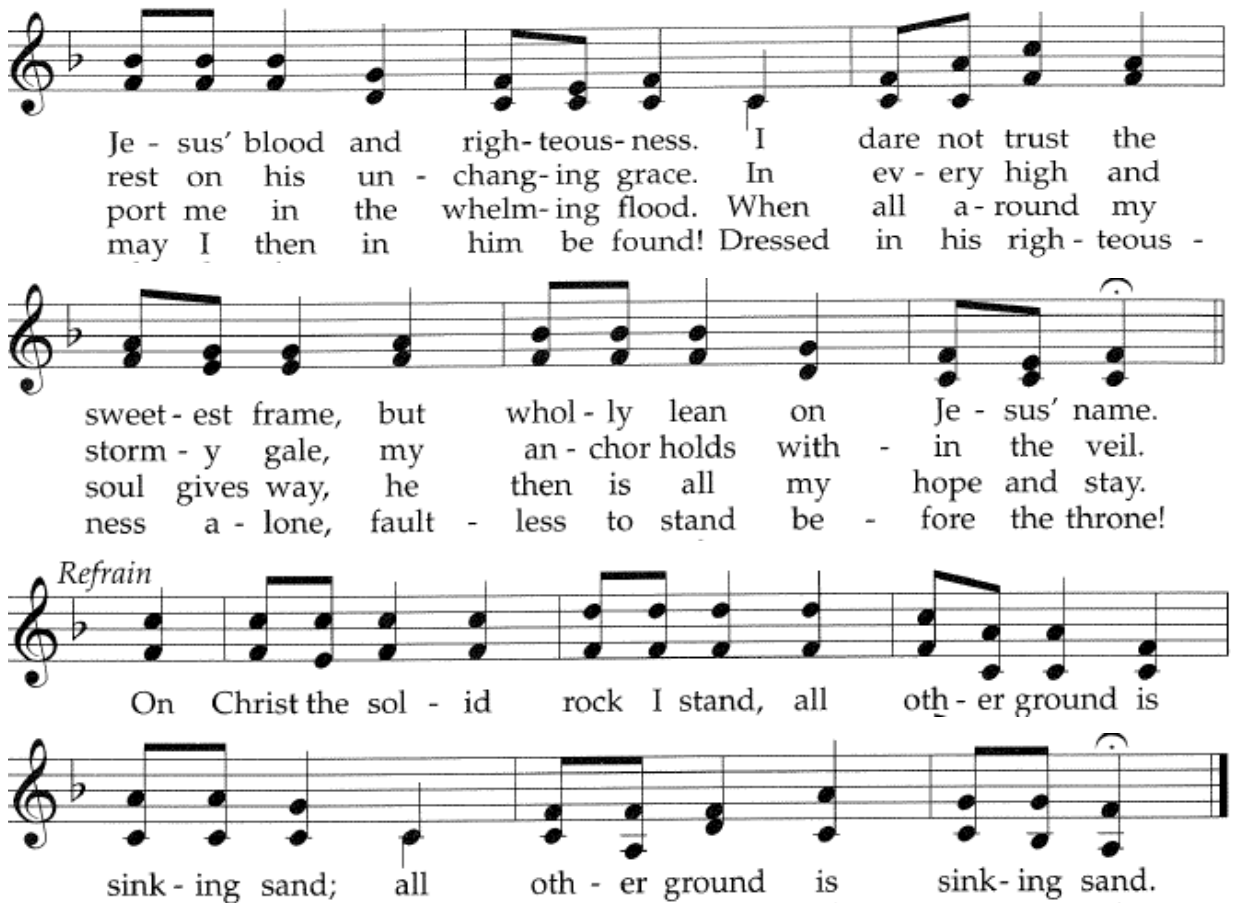
Edward Mote, 1834

THE SOLID ROCK LM w/ Refrain

William B. Bradbury, 1863



1. My hope is built on noth - ing less than
2. When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
3. His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup -
4. When he shall come with trum - pet sound, O



Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness. I dare not trust the  
rest on his un - chang - ing grace. In ev - ery high and  
port me in the whelm - ing flood. When all a - round my  
may I then in him be found! Dressed in his righ - teous -

sweet - est frame, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
storm - y gale, my an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
ness a - lone, fault - less to stand be - fore the throne!

*Refrain*

On Christ the sol - id rock I stand, all oth - er ground is  
sink - ing sand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

## CENTERING PRAYER

**SCRIPTURE** Psalm 51 (O.T. pg. 492) & Matthew 4:1-11 (N.T. pg. 3)

**SERMON** "Cause of Death"

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**CHOIR ANTHEM** "Speak to Me in Ashes" – Karne Crane & Douglass Nolan

Chancel Choir

## INVITATION TO THE PRESENT

We redeem the pain of the years past and let go of anxiety we have for the future. Let any negativity be transformed through the fire and flame. We do this so that the ashes of our past can become our symbol of lives taught by wisdom and renewed by hope.

## IMPOSTITION OF THE ASHES

Reflection Song

"Ashes"

*Please sing along as you are comfortable*

1. We rise a - gain from ash - es, from the  
 2. We of - fer you our fail - ures, we  
 3. Then rise a - gain from ash - es, let  
 4. & Thanks be to the Fa - ther, who

good we've failed to do. We rise a - gain from  
 of - fer you at - tempts, The gifts not ful - ly  
 heal - ing come to pain, Though spring has turned to the  
 made us like him - self. Thanks be to the

ash - es, to cre - ate our - selves a - new. If  
 giv - en, the dreams not ful - ly dreamt. Give our  
 win - ter, and sun - shine turned to rain. The  
 Son, who saved us by his death.

all our world is ash - es, then  
 stum - bl - ings di - rec - tion, give our  
 rain we'll use for grow - ing, and cre -  
 Thanks be to the Spir - it, who cre -

must our lives be true, An of - fer - ing of  
 vi - sions wid - er view, An of - fer - ing of  
 ate the world a - new From an of - fer - ing of  
 ates the world a - new From an of - fer - ing of

ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.

#### PRAYER OF TAKING ON

Where Christ walks

**We will follow.**

Where Christ stumbles,

**We will stop.**

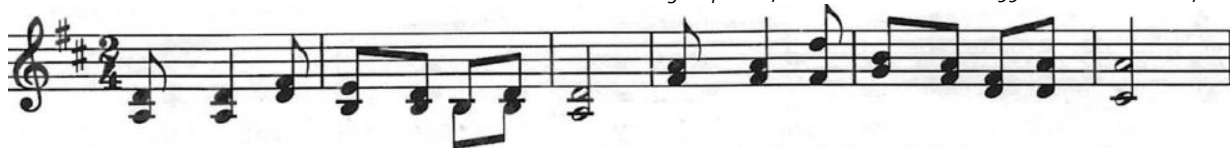
Where Christ cries,  
**We will listen**  
 Where Christ suffers,  
**We will hurt.**  
 When Christ dies,  
**We will bow our heads in sorrow.**  
 When Christ rises again in glory,  
**We will share his endless joy.**  
 There is no other way for us,  
**He is the only way.**

# HYMN

Traditional words

## "Somebody's Knockin' on Your Door"

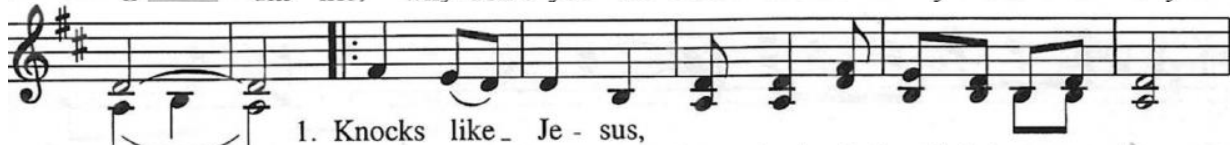
Negro Spiritual; harm. Richard Proulx © 1992 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.



Some - bod - y's knock-in' at your door; Some - bod - y's knock-in' at your door;



O \_\_\_\_\_ sin - ner, why don't you an - swer? Some - bod - y's knock-in' at your



door. \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Knocks like \_ Je - sus,

2. Can't you \_ hear Him? Some - bod - y's knock-in' at your door;

3. Je - sus \_ calls you,

4. Can't you \_ trust Him?



1. Knocks like \_ Je - sus,

2. Can't you \_ hear Him? Some - bod - y's knock-in' at your door; O \_\_\_\_\_

3. Je - sus \_ calls you,

4. Can't you \_ trust Him?



sin - ner, why don't you an - swer? Some - bod - y's knock-in' at your door. \_\_\_\_\_

**BENEDICTION**

Reminded that we will one day die,  
**That all life is a gift from God,**  
We move from this place,  
**Into the buzz of the world,**  
Renewed,  
**Revived,**  
Unburdened,  
**And unleashed on an unsuspecting world.**  
Go and be salt and light for this service has ended,  
**Our service now begins. Amen!**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE      “God Be with You”**  
**God be with you ‘til we meet again; By His counsels guide uphold you;**  
**With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you ‘til we meet again.**

**POSTLUDE      “My Song Is Love Unknown” – arr. Michael Burkhardt      Cathy Fafrak, Organist**

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