

# Ash Wednesday



February 17, 2021 – 7:00 pm  
First Christian Church - Wichita Falls, Texas

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<b>Welcome</b>		Dr. Mark Bender
<b>Prelude</b>		Debbie Watson
<b>Call to Worship</b> - Joel 2:12-13		Rev. Josh deSteiguer
<b>Opening Hymn</b> – <i>Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days</i> (vs. 1, 2)		
	<p><i>Lord, who throughout these forty days, for us did fast and pray, Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.</i></p> <p><i>And through these days of penitence, and through your passiontide, Forevermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.</i></p>	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>		Rev. Josh deSteiguer
<b>Scripture Readings</b>		
From the Old Testament:	Isaiah 58:1-12	Claire Baer
From the Epistles:	2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:2	Jeanette Showalter
From the Gospels:	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	Debbie Watson
<b>Meditation</b> – <i>’Tis a Gift to be Simple</i>		Mark Bender
<b>Invitation to the Observance of Lent</b>		Mark Bender
<b>Scripture</b> – Psalm 51:1-12		Rev. Josh deSteiguer
<b>The Meaning Behind the Ashes</b>		Rev. Josh deSteiguer
<b>Imposition of the Ashes</b>		
	<p><i>Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.</i></p>	
<b>Act of Penitence and Reconciliation</b>		Claire Baer
<b>Assurance of Pardon</b>		Claire Baer

## The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table and Words of Institution

Rev. Josh deSteiguer

Prayer of Thanksgiving (with Lord's Prayer)

Dr. Mark Bender

**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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Sharing the Bread and Cup

*We believe in "open communion" as a church, which means that we do not require you to be a member of First Christian Church in order to participate in the service of the Lord's Supper.*

## Special Lenten Fast

Claire Baer

Give up harsh words: use generous ones.  
Give up unhappiness: take up gratitude.  
Give up anger: take up gentleness and patience.  
Give up pessimism: take up hope and optimism.  
Give up worrying: take up trust in God.  
Give up complaining: value what you have.  
Give up stress: take up prayer.  
Give up judging others: discover Jesus within them.  
Give up sorrow and bitterness: fill your heart with joy.  
Give up selfishness: take up compassion for others.  
Give up being unforgiving: learn reconciliation.  
Give up words: fill yourself with silence, and listen to others.

(Anonymous, Latin American origin)

## Closing Hymn – *'Tis the Gift to be Simple*

***'Tis the gift to be simple,  
'tis the gift to be free,  
'tis the gift to come down  
where we ought to be,  
and when we find ourselves in the place just right,  
'twill be in the valley of love and delight.  
When true simplicity is gained  
to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,  
to turn, turn, will be our delight  
till by turning, turning we come round right.***

## Benediction

Rev. Josh deSteiguer