



*Create in me
a clean heart,
O God, and
put a new
and right spirit
within me.*

Psalm 51:10

DUKE MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
504 West Chapel Hill Street
Durham, North Carolina

Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2003

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

GREETING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

God's mercy endures forever.

*OPENING PRAYER

O God, maker of every thing 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 #363 (vs 1-3)

"And Can It Be that I Should Gain"

SAGINA

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

HYMN

"You Are Mine"

YOU ARE MINE

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 51:1-12

MEDITATION

"What Are Ashes?"

Ruth Harper Stevens

RITUAL OF CONFESSION

CONFESSING OUR BROKENNESS

Lighting the Lenten Candle (to be sung)

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray, teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.

Prayer of Confession

God of all life and of all hope, we confess that we come together bringing with us handfuls of fear and superstition. We are afraid of the world around us, and of the person inside us. We are looking for a good luck charm, a reward for ritual dutifully completed. Strip away our masks, O Lord. Collect the scenery that we so carefully construct to fool our friends, our families, ourselves...and You. Leave us not broken but whole, not anxious but calm. In this time may we catch a glimpse of who we really are, and by Your grace, who we may become. Amen.

(to be sung) **And through these days of penitence, and through thy passiontide, yea, evermore in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.**

CELEBRATING OUR WHOLENESS

Proclamation of Pardon

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

HYMN Chorus of

"You Are Mine"

LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN #363 (vs 4-5)

"And Can It Be that I Should Gain"

SAGINA

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

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