

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Prelude Rick Hobbs, Organist

Greeting

*Call to Worship

One: Jesus came to preach the good news to the poor, to proclaim release of the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate those who are oppressed and to proclaim the year of God's favor.

Let us look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was waiting endured the cross.

Many: We look now to our Lord and Savior, Jesus. We prepare ourselves to receive forgiveness anew through his sacrifice. We prepare ourselves for the journey through Lent that will lead us to the cross. We prepare ourselves to see him there. We keep our eyes fixed on him in the days ahead.

One: Amen.

*Hymn "Be Thou My Vision" #595

Scripture Joel 2:1-13

A Blessing for Ash Wednesday Rev. J.D. Rose

Special Music "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" Combined Choir
(Southbridge)

Meditation Rev. Dr. Thomas Webster

Confession of Sin

One: As disciples of Jesus Christ we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, study, and works of love help us return to that love.

I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to love God and neighbor by confessing your sin and by asking God for strength to persevere your Lenten discipline.

Silence is observed

One: Let us pray.

Many: Most holy and merciful God: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

One: We have not loved you with all our heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Many: Have mercy on us, O God.

One: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Many: Have mercy on us, O God.

One: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, the hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives.

Many: We confess to you, O God.

One: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,

Many: We confess to you, O God.

One: Our anger at our own frustration and our envy at those more fortunate than ourselves,

Many: We confess to you, O God.

One: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in our daily life and work,

Many: We confess to you, O God.

One: Our negligence in prayer and worship and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

Many: We confess to you, O God.

One: Accept our repentance God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human needs and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,