

**The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme**  
**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**  
**2/17/21**

Prelude: Cara Cheung, Cello

Welcome Words (Laura)

Call to Worship:

Prayer of Invocation:

Readings:

Genesis 3:19

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return!”

Psalm 51:

*Have mercy on me, O Gracious One,  
according to your steadfast love;  
According to your abundant kindness  
forgive me where my thoughts and deeds  
have hurt others.  
Lead me in the path of justice,  
guide my steps on the path of peace.*

Teach me, that I may know my weaknesses,  
the shortcomings that bind me,  
The unloving ways that separate me,  
that keep me from recognizing your life in me;  
For I keep company with fear, and dwell in the house of ignorance.  
Yet, I was brought forth in love,

Forgive all that binds me in fear,  
that I might radiate love;  
cleanse me that your light might shine in me.

Look not on my past mistakes  
but on the aspirations of my heart.  
Create in me a clean heart,  
and put a new and right spirit within me..  
melt our hearts of stone,  
break through the fears that lead us into darkness, and  
Guide our steps into the ways of peace.  
(From Psalms for Praying, Nan C. Merrill)

Isaiah 58:6-9a

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? <sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. <sup>9</sup>Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and the Lord will say, Here I am.

Luke 4:1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness.

Music: Come and Fill Our Hearts (Lisa Feltes)

Poem: Blessing the Dust by Jan Richardson

Pastoral Prayer (Carleen)

Music: Come and Fill Our Hearts (Lisa Feltes)

Invitation: Blessing of Ashes and One Another (Steve)

Closing Blessing

Postlude: Amazing Grace (Cara Cheung, Cello)

