



**TRINITY TOWER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**March 5, 2025**

**7:00 PM**

**Ash Wednesday Worship**

***Trinity Tower Church Exists to Love God and Call All People to  
Make a Difference in Our World***

Interim Pastor- Rev. W. Steve Morse

Music Director/organist & harper- Sylvia Reese

Dir. Children's Ministry- Crystal Castiglione

Administrative Assistant- Susan Celedonia

Praise Team & Media -Jenn Jackson

GATHERING

*“Ashokan Farewell”*

Sylvia Reese, Harp

\*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.**

\*HYMN

*“Here, Oh My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face”*

#623

\*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.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

<sup>1</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near — <sup>2</sup>a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains, a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. <sup>14</sup>Who knows whether he will not turn and relent and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God?

<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup>gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her canopy.

<sup>17</sup> Between the vestibule and the altar, let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, “Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’ ”

SONG OF PRAISE

*“Don’t Stop Praying”*

Praise Team

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup> But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup> “And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup> But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>16</sup> “And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>19</sup> “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

MINISTRY IN MUSIC *“All Things Bright and Beautiful”*

Sylvia Reese, Harp

THE MESSAGE

*“Prayer and Fasting”*

Pastor Steve

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLE

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*For the remaining parts of the service please turn to A SERVICE OF  
WORD AND TABLE IV on page 26 in the front of the hymnal.*

*When additional information is needed:*

\*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING *“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”*  
tune: AZMON

1. 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.
2. As Thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the  
victory win, O give us strength in Thee to fight,  
in Thee to conquer sin.
3. As Thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, so teach  
us, gracious Lord, to die to self, and chiefly live  
by Thy most holy Word.
4. And through these days of penitence, and  
through Thy passiontide, yea, evermore in life  
and death, Jesus, with us abide.
5. Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over  
past, Easter of unending joy we may attain  
at last.