

We come on this Ash Wednesday, knowing our failings but trusting in your steadfast mercies.

Thanks be to you, Holy God, for steadfast mercy. You are holy and blessed is your child Jesus Christ. Your Spirit flowed through his life as he became the bridge for our reconciliation. In this season we remember his life and work.

We remember your gift of Baptism. We reflect on the mystery of the cross, We dare to ponder resurrection.

On his final evening with his disciples, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me." After supper Jesus did the same with the cup, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood." In remembrance of these your mighty acts on our behalf, we bring our whole selves to you, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and cup. May this meal be for us signs of your gracious mercy: forgiveness of our sins and promise of salvation.

To you be all praise and glory, Holy God, now and forever. Amen.

THE BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND CUP
THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

(Please come forward using the center aisle, take a piece of bread, dip it into the cup and receive the gifts of God; return to your pew using the center aisle.)

BLESSING AND CHARGE

"Sanctuary"

**Lord prepare me, to be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living,
Sanctuary for you.**

POSTLUDE

We will meet each Wednesday evening at 6:30pm for a simple soup supper and then at 7:15pm for worship. Please join us.

Ash Wednesday February 6, 2008

Fairgreen Presbyterian Church

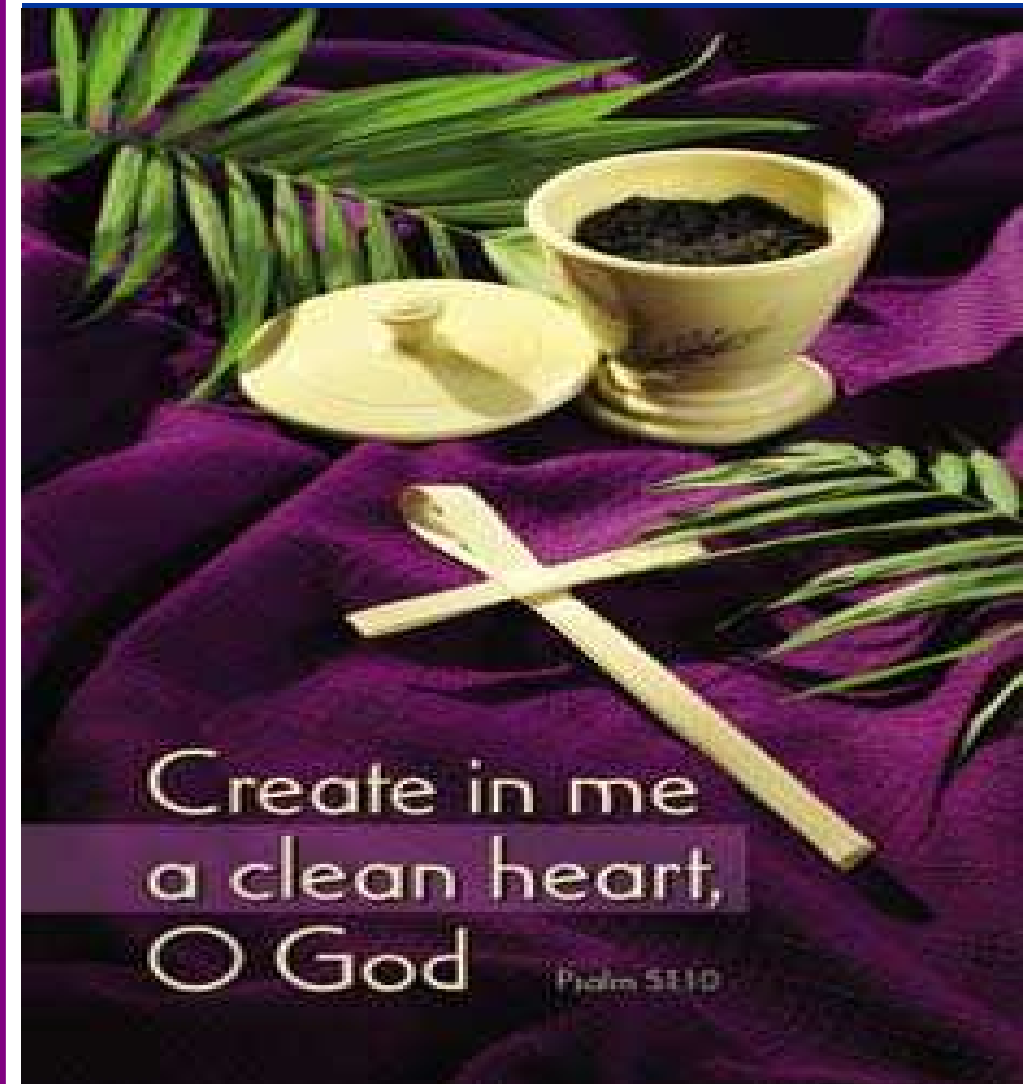
3220 Laskey Road

Toledo, Ohio 43613

419-475-4436

Email: fairgreen.church@sbcglobal.net

Webpage: fairgreenchurch.org





10:00 AM

Welcome to worship with the Fairgreen family! The * symbol means, "All who are able, please stand." † indicates when latecomers may be seated.



Ash Wednesday

PRELUDE
INTRODUCTION TO SERVICE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Earth to earth,
Ashes to ashes,
From dust we were created,
And to dust we shall return.
From the dust and ashes of our lives,
Create again, O Lord.
Create in us clean hearts, O God.
And renew your free spirit within us.

HYMN OF PRESENTATION #370

"Just As I Am"

BLESSING OF THE ASHES

God is with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray: your wonder is written deep in us, O God. We are, by your grace; we are!
Blessed are you, O God, Creator of the universe.
Your breath fills us, O God, and then returns to you.
Blessed are you, O God, Creator of the universe.
Grant that these ashes may remind us of the dust from which we come and to which we return and of the great and glorious gift in between.
Blessed are you, O God, Creator of the universe.
Grant that these ashes may remind us that we are your people and call us again to live in you.
Blessed are you, O God, Creator of the universe. Amen.
You now give us this day, and every day, we give thanks for such a gift and we pray for eyes to see its wonder, hearts to cherish its grace, lives shaped by its preciousness, that we may live fully, deeply, lovingly, each day we have, in Christ. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

We begin our journey to the cross with the symbol of ashes, an ancient sign, which speak of the frailty and uncertainty of human life; they are a symbol of our confession. Knowing our need for God, we long for healing and wholeness. Come and receive the mark of the cross, a sign which names both who you are and whose you are.

(You are invited to come forward down the center aisle, receive the ashes and return by the side aisle.)

*HYMN OF TRANSFORMATION #316

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

THE WORD OF THE LORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Psalm 51: 1-17

pg. 889(OT) in the pew Bible

SPECIAL MUSIC

Geneva Choir

SECOND READING

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

pg.1503(NT) in the pew Bible

REFLECTION ~

The Symbols of Lent ~ The Ashes

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN OF FAITH #404

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Holy One.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right and a good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give thanks to you, O God. You created us to live in communion with you, yet we turned away. You spoke through your prophet Joel: Return to me with all your heart, for I am gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.