



**COMMUNITY UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

*REACH, GROW, SEND WITH GOD'S LOVE*

**February 17, 2021  
Ash Wednesday**

*Prayers for all of us during this time we are physically separated one from another.*

**Welcome and Announcements**

Pastor Riva

**Silent Meditation** *(Let us all be in silent meditation as the candles are lit)*

**Prelude** "What Wondrous Love Is This"

arr. Mark Hayes

**Hymn #2128** "Come and Find the Quiet Center"

- v. 1 Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,  
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:  
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see  
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.
- v. 2 Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,  
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base,  
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,  
raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.
- v. 3 In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,  
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:  
There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,  
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare.

**Moment of Congregational Reflection**

Pastor Riva, Sharon Ruhnke, Dennis Ruhnke

*Voice 1: God, we are dirty and need more than bleach for cleansing.*

*Voice 2: For you, Lord God, are able. Able to erase our wrongs. Scrub away our guilt. You are the only one able to wash us clean from our sins.*

*Voice 1: God, you are merciful and compassionate. Your love is everlasting.*

*Voice 2: We have done wrong—repeatedly—and we continue to violate the commands of your word.*

*Pastor: We pause now, Lord, to confess our sins to you. You are faithful to forgive.*

*(Silence for Reflection and Confession)*

Prayer of Submission: God, create in us clean hearts and renew your spirit within us. Please don't take your spirit away from us; restore unto us the joy of your salvation. Be willing, O God, to keep us in your tender care. Deliver us, Lord, and free us from ourselves – our flesh. Help us, Father, to use our lives as a testament to your transformational power. Allow your Holy Spirit to redirect us when we begin to wallow back to the former. We want to be used in your service. Here we are, Lord. We yield ourselves to you.

*(Silence for Reflection and Confession)*

Words of Assurance: God, you remind us in your word that when we are in Christ we are new creatures, and the old things pass away. This Ash Wednesday we take hold of your promise: Renew us, Lord: a new walk, a new talk, a new mind, a new heart, a new life.

Thank you for the promise that we can truly be made new again. Amen.

**Gospel Reading**                      Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 NRSV                      Pastor Nancy

**Scripture Reading**                      Joel 2:1-2; 12-17 NRSV                      Sharon Ruhnke, Dennis Ruhnke

**Response: Thanks be to God!**

**Gift of Music**                      “*Dust and Ashes*”                      Brian Wren/David Haas  
Women’s Quartet: Naomi Jones, Joanie Anderson, Stacy Johnson, Kari Trench

**Meditation**                      “*God’s Call for Repentance*”                      Pastor Riva

**Hymn #402**                      “*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*”

- v. 1    Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, I my heart;  
      Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.  
      In my heart (in my heart), in my heart (in my heart)  
      Lord I want to be a Christian in my heart (in my heart).
- v. 2    Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, I my heart;  
      Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.  
      In my heart (in my heart), in my heart (in my heart)  
      Lord I want to be more loving in my heart (in my heart).
- v. 3    Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, I my heart;  
      Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.  
      In my heart (in my heart), in my heart (in my heart)  
      Lord I want to be more holy in my heart (in my heart).
- v. 4    Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, I my heart;  
      Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.  
      In my heart (in my heart), in my heart (in my heart)  
      Lord I want to be like Jesus in my heart (in my heart).

**Lord’s Prayer**                      Pastor Nancy

**Our (Creator/God/Mother/Father\*) in heaven, Holy is your name. Your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

*\*Please use whichever name connects you deeply to the Divine.*

**Benediction**                      Pastor Riva, Sharon Ruhnke, Dennis Ruhnke

*Pastor: God, we are tired of doing things our way. The benefits are temporary, and the effects are long-lasting.*

**People: So, God, we come running back to you.**

*Pastor: God, we have gone astray. We are guilty of living contrary to your Word, your will, and your way.*

**People: But, God, we come running back to you.**

*Pastor: God, you are coming back soon and very soon. We want to be ready when you return.*

**People: Yes, God, we come running back to you.**

*Pastor: Lord, we fear you. This fear doesn’t run us away from you, but it keeps us running back to you.*

**People: Our God, we come running back to you!**

*Pastor: We cry out to you, God. We ask for your forgiveness.*

**People: Thank You, God. We come running back to you.**

**Leader:** At this time, God, we will choose to fast and to pray. We seek to separate ourselves from our fleshly desires in order to concentrate wholly on you.

**People: Hold us fast, God. We come running back you.**

*Pastor: God, we meet you, here, in this virtual space of gathering. We rejoice in knowing that you are able to do exceedingly, abundantly, above all that we can ask, think, or even imagine according to the power which is at work within us.*

**People: With our gifts of praise and worship, we come running back to you.**

**All: God, we glorify you today. Thank you for not giving up on us. Thank you for not throwing us away or casting us aside. Thank you for not dealing with us as we so deserved. Thank you for love that covers a multitude of sins. With wide open arms, you have received us, so we come running back to you.**

**Postlude**

*“Have Mercy On Me, O Lord God”*

J. L. Krebs

### **Worship Participants**

**Readers:** Sharon Ruhnke, Dennis Ruhnke

**Gift of Music:** Naomi Jones, Joanie Anderson, Stacy Johnson,  
Kari Trench

### **Worship Team**

**Lead Pastor:** Pastor Riva Tabelisma

**Teaching Elder:** Rev. Dr. Nancy Victorin-Vangerud

**Music:** Dan Ritter

**Audio & Video Recording:** James Bordewick/Les Johnson

**Video Editing:** James Bordewick/Riva Tabelisma



## **Our Vision**

*We are an urban, intergenerational, inclusive, and welcoming Christian fellowship woven into the fabric of our community.*

## **Community UMC's**

### **Statement of Reconciliation:**

Community United Methodist Church of Columbia Heights believes that we are all children of God, individuals of sacred worth, created in God's image with our many differences, and that God loves all people. We recognize that God's love is not limited by boundaries. Therefore, we welcome and affirm people of all ages, races, ethnicities, cultures, gender identities, sexual orientations, socio-economic statuses, physical capabilities, or mental abilities.

We believe that prejudice, hatred, or discrimination directed toward any individual or group is contrary to the life, spirit, and teaching of Jesus Christ. We have vowed to accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression. Therefore, we shall work to eliminate prejudice and discriminatory practices within ourselves and our community, and to show God's grace.

We proclaim ourselves a Reconciling Congregation and welcome all who seek a relationship with God.

*Adopted November 3, 2019*

## **Our Staff**

Lead Pastor	Pastor Riva Tabelisma
Teaching Pastor	Rev. Nancy Victorin-Vangerud
Ministers	All the Congregation
Office Manager	Martha Bentley
Music Director	Dan Ritter
Bell Choir Director	Karen Schneider

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