

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE - FEBRUARY 13, 2013
BLUFF POINT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L. Why have we gathered in this place?

P. We come in praise of the God of all life and in affirmation of Jesus Christ as the truth and center of our lives. We celebrate places where love is found in life, and we give thanks for the gift of new life that comes to us this lenten season.

HYMN: "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" #349

PRAYER: #353 Ash Wednesday

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 58: 1-12

PSALM 51 (responsively) #785

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Dear God, I know my misdeeds, and my sin is ever before me. Wash away my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. Let us ask god to break forth light into the dark places of our hearts and confront us with hidden and secret sins, all that we keep in the dark. O God, open our hearts from our buried grudges, our bitterness of some past loss not yet offered to you. O God, open our hearts to the fear of failure which saps our initiative and the pessimism that is an insult to your will and power. O god, open our hearts. Here and now, O Holy One, we bring our secret sins to you, we lie open in your sight. Let your piercing light be also our healing, for the sake of jesus Christ, who both taught us and brought us your forgiveness. Amen.

CHOIR SELECTION: "He Was Born To Die"

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-211

MEDITATION: "The Marks"

SPECIAL MUSIC: "THE CROSS" - Bruce Westerdahl, soloist

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION AND THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

CHORAL ANTHEM: "Given For You"

BURNING OF CONFESSIONAL PAPERS - Take this time to confess to the Lord your sins. if you choose, write down a need you want forgiven, then bring it forward to burn as you take communion and have the ashes or repentance placed on your forehead. We remember that we are human beings, not perfect, but in need of forgiveness. Hence the ashes to remind us of our mortality and our need for Christ.

HOLY COMMUNION AND PLACEMENT OF ASHES

HYMN: #488 "Jesus Remember Me"

PRAYER

BENEDICTION

GREET ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE