

**First United Methodist Church
Greensboro, Georgia
Rev. Joe Watson, Senior Pastor
Rev. Amanda Garvin, Associate Pastor
Mrs. Merry Grayson, Assistant Pastor**

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

FEBRUARY 22, 2012 7:00 P.M.

THE PRELUDE Dawn Ruppelt

THE GREETING Mrs. Grayson

Leader: Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord:
though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like
snow;

**Congregation: though they are red like crimson, they shall become
like wool.**

Leader: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord,

**Congregation: that He may teach us His ways and that we may
walk in his paths.**

Leader: In returning and rest you shall be saved;

Congregation: quietness and trust shall be your strength.

Leader: For we do not have a high priest who is unable to
sympathize with our weaknesses,

**Congregation: but we have one who in every respect has been
tested as we are, yet without sin.**

Leader: Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with
boldness,

**Congregation: so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help
in time of need.**

THE OPENING PRAYER Rev. Garvin

O merciful Father, in compassion for your sinful children you sent your
Son Jesus Christ to be the Savior of the world. Grant us grace to feel
and to lament our share of the evil that made it necessary for him to
suffer and to die for our salvation. Help us by self-denial, prayer and
meditation to prepare our hearts for deeper penitence and a better
life. And give us a true longing to be free from sin, through the
deliverance won by Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

*THE HYMN No. 269 Congregation
Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER Rev. Garvin

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM The Chancel Choir
Create In Me a Clean Heart

*THE DOXOLOGY Congregation

THE SCRIPTURE: Joel 2: 1-2; 12-17 Rev. Watson

THE SERMON "God to Mortals: Really?!" Rev. Watson

INVITATION TO THE Rev. Watson
OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES Rev. Garvin

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.
Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and
penitence, so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift
are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **AMEN.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*On Ash Wednesday, we confront our own mortality and confess our sin
before God within the community of faith. Ashes are placed on the
forehead in the shape of a cross, as a sign of our mortality and
repentance.*

*THE HYMN No. 292 Congregation
What Wondrous Love Is This

*THE BENEDICTION Rev. Watson

*Congregation Standing