

**Hymn – *O Lord, Hear My Prayer*** (Insert)

**Lenten Prayer**

**Call to Stewardship** – Rev. Stephen Silver

*Donations will go toward Listen and The Haven*

**Anthem – *Dust and Ashes Touch Our Face*** by Brian Wren #186 (black hymnal)

**Imposition of Ashes** – Rev. Kirsty DePree

**Closing Hymn – *Abide With Me*** #99 (black hymnal) Verses 1-3

**Benediction**– All Worship Leaders

**Postlude**

*Leading Worship this Evening:*

The Rev, Kirsty DePree, West Lebanon Congregational Church  
Ms. Sally Ann Silfies, Greater Hartford United Church of Christ  
The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, First Congregational Church of Lebanon  
The Rev. SangChurl Bae, Lebanon and White River United Methodist Churches

Aaron Richter, Organist (WLCC)  
Carol Cronce, Choir Director (GHUCC)



**Ash Wednesday Service**  
West Lebanon Congregational Church  
March 2, 2022  
7pm

**Welcome** – Rev. Kirsty DePree

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship** – Rev. SangChurl Bae

“Even now, declares the Lord,  
return to me with all your heart.” (Joel 2:12)  
**Roll up your sleeves.**  
Let down your guard.  
**Come in from the storm.**  
Make yourself at home.  
**Pull up to the table.**  
Release the tension in your jaw.  
Take a deep breath.  
Return to God  
with all your heart.  
**May it be so.**

**Opening Hymn** – *Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights* (Insert) verses 1-3

**Call to Confession** – Rev. SangChurl Bae

Lent can sometimes get a negative reputation. It’s viewed as the season in our faith when we give things up, we prepare for the worst. However, I cannot help but imagine that God wants more for us than just six weeks of discipline or six weeks without chocolate. I cannot help but imagine that God wants a life for us so expansive that faith, joy, and hope flow over the edges. So let us confess, not because we have to suffer our way through Lent, but because the truth moves us one step closer to that expansive faith. Let us pray:

**Prayer of Confession** – Rev. SangChurl Bae

Holy God, I confess: I don’t return to you fully.  
I share with you the pieces of my life that are convenient.  
I put on different hats in different rooms.  
I forget that I am called, invited, and loved with all that I am—  
including my mess, my beauty, my faith, and my doubt.  
Forgive me, and give me a heart that longs to return.

**Friend, God sees you. God hears you. God loves you. You are forgiven and claimed with all that you are. Rest in that good news.**

Thanks be to God, amen.

**Words of Assurance** – Rev. SangChurl Bae

**Holy God, we confess: we don’t return to you fully.**  
**We share with you the pieces of our lives that are convenient.**  
**We put on different hats in different rooms.**  
**We forget that we are called, invited, and loved with all that we are—**  
**including our mess, our beauty, our faith, and our doubt.**  
**Forgive us, and give us hearts that long to return.**

Friends, God sees you. God hears you. God loves you. You are forgiven and claimed with all that you are. Rest in that good news.

**Thanks be to God, amen.**

**Prayer of Illumination**

**Scripture** – Psalm 51, Rev, Kirsty DePree

**Hymn** – *Create in Me a Clean Heart* (Words Below)

Create in me a clean heart, O God  
and renew a right spirit within me  
Create in me a clean heart, O God  
And renew a right spirit within me  
Cast me not away from Your presence, O Lord  
and take not Your Holy Spirit from me  
Restore unto me, the joy of Your salvation,  
and renew a right spirit within me.

**Homily** – Rev. Kirsty DePree

**Scripture** – Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

**Homily** – Sally Ann Silfies