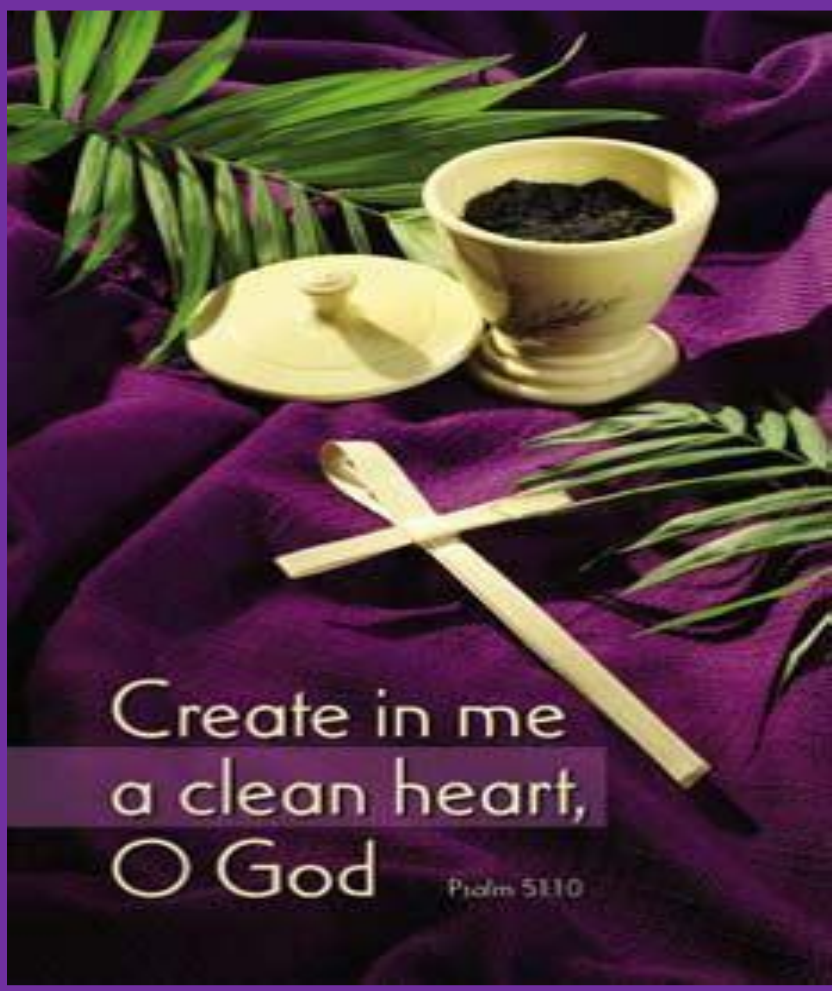


Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025



Create in me
a clean heart,
O God

Psalms 51:10

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WESTMORELAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Reverend Dr. Thom Malcolm, Pastor

Pastor's Phone: 304-654-9440

PRELUDE

GARY MAYNARD

***WELCOME**

DONNA WOLFE

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins. God's mercy endures forever.

***UNISON PRAYER**

UMH 353

***HYMN** *"ALAS! AND DID MY SAVIOR BLEED"*

UMH 359

OLD TESTAMENT READING

JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17

***RESPONSIVE READING** *PSALM 51:1-17*

UMH 785-786

***GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 70

EPISTLE READING

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20B-6:10

***HYMN** *"LORD, I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN"*

UMH 402

***GOSPEL READING**

MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

SERMON

PASTOR THOM MALCOLM

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

CONFESSION AND PARDON

UMH 890

THE LORD'S PRAYER

***HYMN** *"MORE LOVE TO THEE, O CHRIST"*

UMH 453

***BENEDICTION**

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: the early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation. During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church. In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent; by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word. To make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now bow before our Creator and Redeemer.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

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.

Pastor Thom Malcolm
Stephanie Malcolm (RLP)
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