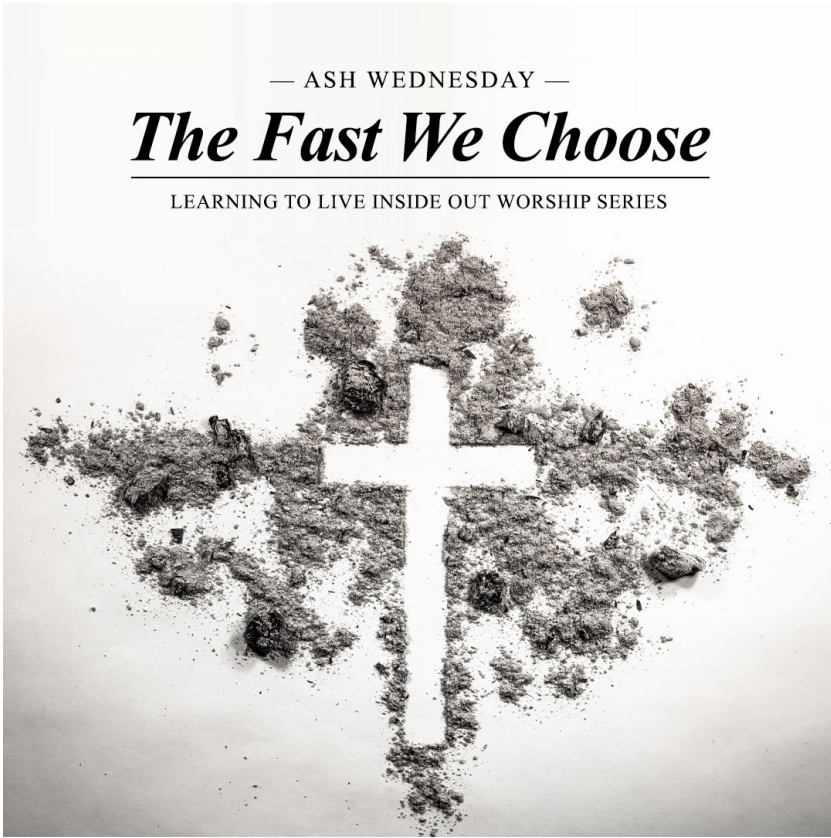


— ASH WEDNESDAY —

# *The Fast We Choose*

LEARNING TO LIVE INSIDE OUT WORSHIP SERIES



First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

*Serving, Giving, Welcoming, Growing in the likeness of Christ*

February 22, 2023

ASH WEDNESDAY

Stream, Attendance, Prayer Request and Comment online at [gilbertumc.org](https://gilbertumc.org)

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# Welcome!

Service at 6:30 pm • See [gilbertumc.org](http://gilbertumc.org) for streaming information

*\*please stand as you are able*

## Pre-service Music

“Draw Me Close”

*by Kelly Carpenter; arr. by Mark Hayes © 1994 Mercy/Vineyard*

## Ringing of the Bell

## Welcome and Greeting

Pastor Adriana Hernandez

## Bringing in the Light of Christ

## Prelude

“Near to the Heart of God”

*by Cleland B. McAfee; arr. by Martha Mier © 1999 by Alfred Publishing Co., Inc*

## \*Call to Worship

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

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Why have we gathered today?

**All: We gather to confess our sins and bring a sacrifice of a broken and contrite heart to God, who forgives us and frees us for joyful obedience. Today, we join one another and Christ on the road to the cross and commit ourselves to the Lenten journey ahead of us. May we be faithful to keeping a Lenten fast of justice, charity, and flourishing before God, self, and neighbor.**

## \*Opening Hymn

“Take Time To Be Holy” vs. 1, 3, 4

#395

*WORDS: William D. Longstaff MUSIC: George C. Stebbins*

## \*Opening Prayer

O God, even though we are sinners, in Your mercy You have called us to repent and become members in Christ of Your family.

Lead us, O Lord, back into Your ways. In Christ we pray. Amen.

## Anthem

“Create In Me A Clean Heart, O God”

The Chancel Choir

*by Carl Mueller*

**Scripture Reading**    Isaiah 58: 1-12 | Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**Message**

Pastor Rick Casebolt

**Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer**

**Invitation to Observance of Lenten Discipline**

**Prayer of 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.

**Imposition of Ashes**

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

*American Folk Hymn arr. by Cindy Berry © 2013 by Alfred Music*

**Offering**

**Offertory**

“Depth of Mercy/Search Me, O God”

*by Carl M. von Weber and Edward J. Hopkins; arr. by Cindy Berry*

**\*Doxology**

“Praise God, from whom all Blessings Flow” *by Thomas Ken* #95

**\*Offering Prayer**

Holy God of compassion and mercy, help us enter this holy season with  
the hearts you desire and with the sacrifices that please you—more than  
our letting go of bad habits. As we offer ourselves to you, may we be dedicated  
to the work of compassion. Help us take on what brings you joy: sharing with  
the hungry and offering shelter and clothing to the homeless and poor.  
In doing so, may light arise in the darkness. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

**\*Closing Hymn**

“Just As I Am, Without One Plea” vs. 1, 3, 5

*WORDS: Charlotte Elliott MUSIC: William B. Bradbury*

#357

**\*Closing Prayer (in Unison)**

God of Eternal Love, we have made our commitment to You, and have started a new journey into purposeful growth. But, we know that if we are to remain faithful we need Your help and Your strength. So, we ask... Teach us to pray with faith and read Your Word with understanding. Teach us to worship with passion and gather together with love. Teach us to give generously, serve compassionately and use our time mindfully, so that we may reflect Your goodness, and that others may discover Your grace through us. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

**\*Blessing**

**Postlude**

“Here I Am, Lord”

*by Donald L. Schutte; arr. by Sharon Wilson © 1981 Daniel Schutte and New Dawn Music*

Join us this Sunday for a new worship series!

Matthew 4:1-11



*Thank you for joining our services this evening!*  
 If you have any questions or comments please contact us at [connection@gilbertumc.org](mailto:connection@gilbertumc.org)  
 CLERGY: Pastor Rick Casebolt and Pastor Adriana Hernandez  
 MUSIC DIRECTOR: Randy Van Der Pol ORGANIST: Marilyn Harter

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