**Community Congregational Church of Clinton Heights, UCC**

**February 22, 2023**

**Rev. Kathy Johnson**

**Welcome**

**No matter who you are or where you on life’s journey, you are welcome here!**

**Readings: The Call to Discipleship**

**\*Hymn - Here I Am Lord, 452**

**Readings: The Burden of Idolatry**

**Readings: The Burden of Violence**

**Readings: The Burden of Selfishness**

**\*Hymn – All are Welcome**

**Rev. Kathy: Forgiveness and New Life**

**The Ashes of Forgiveness**

**Rev. Kathy**: Ashes are a symbol of purification. As a fire burns, it can separate what is valuable from what is valueless, just as an assayer’s fire can separate a base metal from one that is priceless. In this same way, these ashes are pure. They are a symbol of the new space that is now present within us for a new life. Let us claim the new life Jesus offers us by praying to God.

**All: God of love and mercy, we come to you in prayer, seeking to change our hearts and minds. We confess the baggage of idols, bitterness, and self-concern that we so often drag around with us, struggling under its weight all the while we attempt to follow Christ. Cleanse us from the attachment to these old things. Burn away their power in us and purify our hearts. In place of old ways fill us with the new fire of your Holy Spirit. Open up new opportunities for us to follow Jesus in loving you and our neighbors. In Jesus’ name we ask these things. Amen.**

**Rev. Kathy**: Friends, receive the good news of our faith, for in the name of Jesus, I announce that our sins are forgiven. The old has died. Behold, the new has come!

Those who wish may now receive the mark of these ashes as a sign of your forgiveness and new life.

**“The old has died. The new has come.”**

**\*Hymn Be Thou My Vision, 595**

**Commission and Benediction Postlude**

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2) Click on the **Donate Now** button,

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