

February 17, 2021

Ash Wednesday

Before service speak silently to the Lord, during the service let the Lord speak powerfully to you.

Service for the Worship of God



Our Mission is to be a
community of disciples
with a heart for God
and hands to help others.

* = All who are able please stand. ♦ **boldface** = congregation participates

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Loving Lord, at the beginning of this Lenten season, we are met with the challenge of handing over every bit of our lives that do not come from you. To rid ourselves of what clutters our lives, and all that distracts us from the simple truth of your love for us, so that we may grow in and with you. Lead and guide us on this Lenten way. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE: *Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross*

arr. Cindy Berry

Gathering in the Lord's Presence

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Friends and neighbors, in the middle of this season, we pause to observe Ash Wednesday together as a faith community.

All: **We remember that God made us from fragile, blessed dust and breathes through us the breath of life and love.**

One: From dust we are created in God's image and to God's good dust we shall return.

All: **With dust and oil we claim the mark of God's beloved creature.**

One: Today we begin our 40-day Lenten journey to discover and grow into who we are created to be as God's beloved.

All: **In practices of prayer, worship, and service we will grow together with our Lord.**

One: We follow Jesus, God's Beloved Child, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh in whom we see God's image most clearly.

All: **So come, let us pray for strength and imagination to grow with Jesus wherever he will plant us this Lent.**

HYMN #421

Have Mercy, God Upon my Life (Psalm 51)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (based on Psalm 51)

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions.

People: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Leader: Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence.

People: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Leader: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

People: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Even at the threshold of Lent, the beginning of the fast, we know the story of God's love: and forgiveness still is present here.

People: God is with us, and loves us. We are forgiven.

Hearing the Word

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: Joel 2:1-2, 12-13

¹Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near— ²a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

¹²Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

SPECIAL MUSIC: *Call to Lent*

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

⁵ ^{20(b)}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6 ¹As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

RESPONSE:

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE: *Yet Even Now*

Responding to the Word

HYMN #433

Sign Us with Ashes

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Going Forth to Serve

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Sharing the Meal

Prayer after Communion

BLESSING

RESPONSE TO BENEDICTION

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Lauren Cochran, Pastor

Dylan Rehm, Chancel Choir & Handbell Director

Darlene Richards, Organ

Matt Parker Wrzeszcz, Associate Pastor