



Trinity United Church of Christ

Deerfield, Illinois

March 5, 2025

Ash Wednesday — Lent Begins

Virtual Worship

To Dial In by Phone Only 1 (312) 626-6799 - MTG ID 874 9506 6741

Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87495066741?pwd=NjdvYnNycy80SWpldVJQZmQ4UDd0QT09>

Participant ID (Not required. None provided) **“Otherwise just press #”**

Meeting Password: **760760**

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES

COURAGE IN THE SHADOWS

With Music

I Love You, Lord

Laurie Klein
Arr Mark Hayes

THE LENTEN JOURNEY BEGINS

Rev. Edmonds

Ash Wednesday Prayer of Confession

Rev. Maren Tirabassi

Call to Confession Joel 2: 12-13

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the

Lord, your God who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

O God, we confess the damage we may do our bodies by those things we eat or do not eat, drink or do not drink, by over-sleeping or sleep-deprivation, by failure to exercise or failure to seek medical attention, by life-destroying emotions and angers.

Forgive us, O God, and make us whole.

O God, we confess that we love ourselves too much or too little, ignore our families or smother them, fail to love our neighbors or fail to recognize that everyone is a neighbor.

Forgive us, O God, and teach us love.

O God, we confess our sins of hesitation – when kindness should be done, generosity or common decency shown, or risky justice pursued.

Forgive us, O God, and wake us up.

God, we confess our spoken sins – gossip or lies, betrayal of trust or exaggeration, hurtful criticism, prejudiced jokes, cheap agreements without commitment.

Forgive us, O God, and keep us quiet.

God, we confess the harm we do when we don't think we will be caught.

Forgive us, O God, and brighten the mirror of our conscience.

O God, we confess our joylessness – not noticing the beauty of the earth or the sweet passing of time, staying aloof from people and animals, letting distractions eat our living.

Forgive, O God, every time we do not open our spirits, our minds, our emotional hearts, or our bodies to the blessings you are waiting to give us.

Assurance of Grace: *Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior #551* (see attached)
vss. 1-2

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Blow 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—
² a 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.

¹² Yet even now, says the Lord,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love,
 and relenting from punishment.

¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and relent
 and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
 for the Lord your God?

¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶ gather the people.

Consecrate the congregation;
 assemble the aged;
gather the children,
 even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room
 and the bride her canopy.

¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar,
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.
Let them say, “Spare your people, O Lord,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
‘Where is their God?’ ”

Assurance of Grace: *Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior #551* (see attached)
vss. 3-4

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6 As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ² For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! ³ We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴ but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶ in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷ truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸ in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true, ⁹ as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look—we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, ¹⁰ as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything.

SILENCE

REFLECTION

Consecrated

Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds

Psalm 51:10-12

¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.**

¹¹ **Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

¹² **Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

ALL Singing

Give Me a Clean Heart #188

(see attached)

RESPONSIVE PRAYERS

Ash Wednesday – a prayer (*John 7:53-8:11*)

(adapted) Maren Tirabassi

Dust-writer,
who shapes the letters of forgiveness
before the challenge to begin again,
you guide us through
our own dust and ashes,
avoiding the stones of condemnation.

**Give us hope for this Ash Wednesday
and the Lenten days to come,
and turn our cinder-lives into embers.**

Litany for the Heretics

(adapted) Fran Pratt

God, we lift up to you the courageous souls who go against the grain of the present age:

The Heretics

The ones who flout tradition of expectation

The Brave

The ones who offend the powers and principalities

The Prophets

The ones who see past the acceptable and into the excellent

The Beloved

The ones who do the Kingdom work despite resistance

The Committed

The ones who sacrifice possessions and reputations for good

The Bold

The ones who speak truth to power

May their faith never falter,

Their feet never stumble

Their resources never run out

Their hope never die

Because they are the ones we need

To shake us up and inspire us.

They are the ones we need to become,

The voice crying in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way of the Lord.”

May the Vision of the Good News

The Way of God breaking in,

So stir and astound and awaken us

That we can’t help but offer out lives to join them. Amen.

THE MARK OF IMPERMANENCE & PROCLAMATION OF HOPE

Invitation

Musical Meditation as We are Marked

Nearer, My God to Thee

Lowell Mason
Arr Marianne Kim

BENEDICTION

Peaceful Piano #4

Mark Hayes

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Pamela Keckler, Acting Music of Ministry

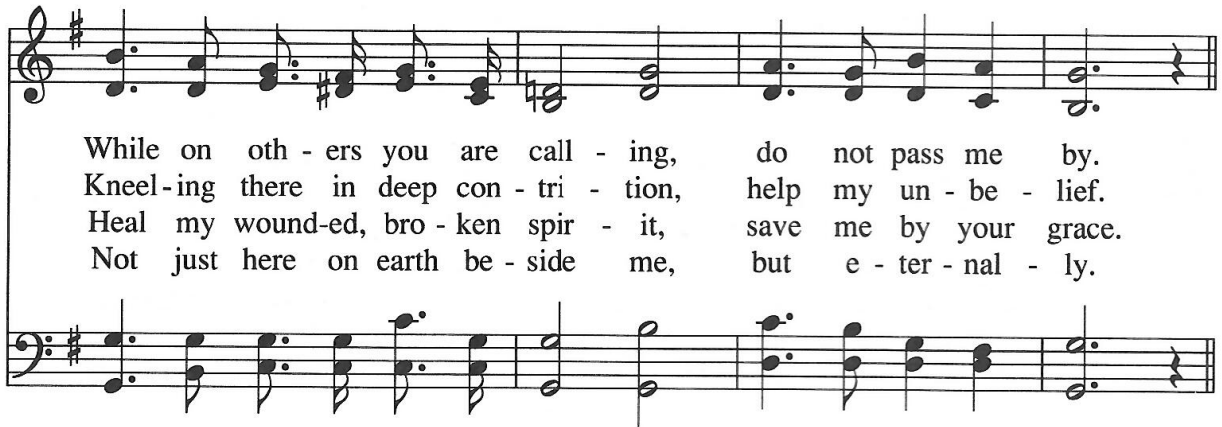
Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

Luke 18:35-43

Fanny Crosby (1820-1915); alt.



1 Pass me not, O gen - tle Sav - ior, hear my hum - ble cry;
 2 Let me at your throne of mer - cy find a sweet re - lief;
 3 Trust - ing on - ly in your mer - it, would I seek your face;
 4 Be the Spring of all my com - fort, more than life to me;

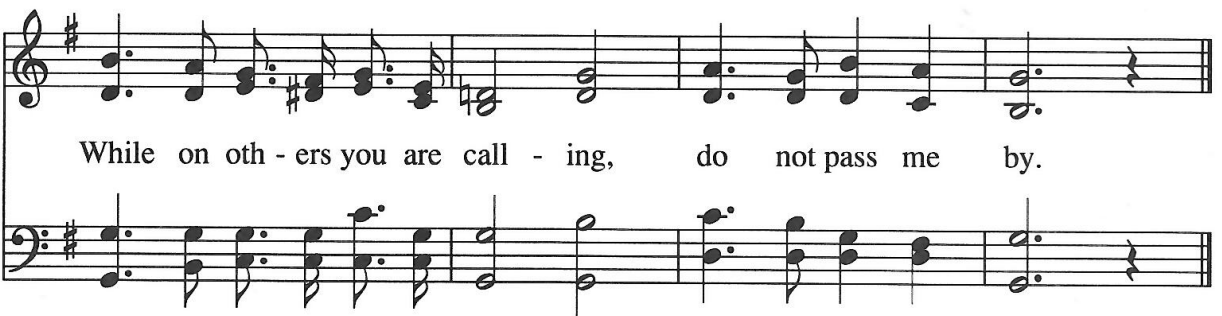


While on oth - ers you are call - ing, do not pass me by.
 Kneel - ing there in deep con - tri - tion, help my un - be - lief.
 Heal my wound - ed, bro - ken spir - it, save me by your grace.
 Not just here on earth be - side me, but e - ter - nal - ly.

Refrain



Sav - ior, Sav - ior, hear my hum - ble cry;



While on oth - ers you are call - ing, do not pass me by.

Fanny Crosby was already a successful writer when she became associated with gospel hymnists Sankey, Sweney, Root, and others. She directed her talent to gospel songs in her early forties, and collaborated with William Doane on many hymns.

Tune: PASS ME NOT 8.5.8.5. with refrain
 William H. Doane (1832-1915)

Give Me a Clean Heart

*Ps. 51:1-12**Margaret J. Douroux, 1970; alt.*

Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.

God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you.

For I'm not wor - thy of all these bless - ings.

Give me a clean heart and I'll fol-low you.

Margaret J. Douroux, the daughter of a Baptist minister, is known especially for this gospel song, which was recorded by singer James Cleveland. Among her other popular songs found in church hymnals is "God Is Not Dead."

Tune: DOUROUX 10.12.10.10.
 Margaret J. Douroux, 1970
 Arr. Albert Denis Tessier, 1987