

Ash Wednesday Service

February 17, 2021



Order of Worship for Ash Wednesday

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Adagio for Strings

Samuel Barber/arr. W. Strickland

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING HYMN

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

#84

RATHBUN

1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
Towering o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.

2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me:
Lo! it glows with peace and joy.

3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.

4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Adapted from Psalm 51)

Have mercy upon us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercies, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Cast us not away from your presence.

Restore to us the Joy of your salvation, and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, according to the commandments of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

SILENT CONFSSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LENTEN RESPONSE

#98

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

PASSION CHORALE

Verse 1

1 O sacred head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down;
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, Thine only crown;
O sacred Head, what glory,
What bliss till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call Thee mine.

WE LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON 2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10

SERMON

The Rev. J.C. Austin

SERMON HYMN

#76

My Song Is Love Unknown

LOVE UNKNOWN

Verses 1,2,3, & 5

1 My song is love unknown,
My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be.
O who am I

That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh, and die?

2 Christ came from heaven's throne
Salvation to bestow,
But people scorned and none
The longed-for Christ would know.
But O my Friend,
My Friend indeed,
Who at my need
His life did spend!

3 Sometimes they strew His way,
And His sweet praises sing,
Resounding all the way
Hosannas to their King,
Then "Crucify!"
Is all their breath,
And for His death
They thirst and cry.

5 Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine:
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend,
In whose sweet
Could gladly spend.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

INVITATION TO THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

DISBURSE INTO BREAKOUT ROOMS (see attachment)

Prayer Over the Ashes

Imposition of Ashes

VIRTUAL CHOIR ANTHEM

Turn Thy Face from my Sins

Thomas Attwood

Turn thy face from my sins, and put out all my misdeeds. Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.

(Psalm 51:9-11)

THE LORD'S SUPPER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISBURSE INTO BREAKOUT ROOMS (see attachment)

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

"Adagio" from Organ Symphony No. 5, Op. 42

Charles-Marie Widor

We Are Sent

SENDING HYMN

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

#363

SOJOURNER

1 I want Jesus to walk with me; (Walk with me)
I want Jesus to walk with me; (Walk with me)
All along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me. (with me)

2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me; (Walk with me)
In my trials, Lord, walk with me; (Walk with me)
When my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me. (with me)

3 When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me; (Walk with me)
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me; (Walk with me)
When my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me. (with me)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand"

setting Jean Langlais

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The person whose first name is closest to the letter “A” will offer the opening prayer:

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior we pray.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The person whose first name is closest to the letter “Z” will call another person in the group by name.

When they are ready, repeat the following as they impose ashes in the sign of the cross on their own forehead:

“Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Repent, and believe the good news.”

The person who has just received ashes will then call another person by name. When they are ready, repeat the words above during the self-imposition of ashes.

Continue until everyone has received ashes.

Following the same order in which people spoke for the imposition of ashes, offer the following prayers:

PRAYERS FOR A LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Worshipper #1

Let us pray.

Gracious and Loving God, truly we are dust, and to dust we shall return; and truly we are yours, and to you we shall return. Help us to make this season of repentance, a time of turning around and beginning again.

Worshipper #2

Through the forty days of Lent, help us to follow you and to find you: in our prayer and worship, in our study and service, in our gifts of money and time and energy for your purposes.

Worshipper #3

Help us to discover you in our isolation and in community, in our emptiness and our fulfilment, in our sadness and our laughter.
Help us to find you when we ourselves are lost.

Worshipper #4

Help us to follow you on the journey to Jerusalem to the waving palms of the people's hope, to their rejection, to the cross and finally to the joy of the empty tomb. Help us to perceive new life amid the ashes of the old. Help us, carrying your cross, to be signs of your Kingdom.

ALL:

Amen.

Remain in silent prayer and contemplation until you are invited back to the larger group.

Ash Wednesday Communion Liturgy

February 17, 2021

Beginning instructions:

Make sure each person participating claims at least one numbered “part.” If necessary, someone can take two parts so that the liturgy is covered.

Once you have divided out the liturgy, Reader 1 should say, “let’s begin our time of Communion,” wait a few moments in silence, and then start:

Reader 1:

Scripture tells us that people will come from north and south, from east and west, from every corner of the earth and sit at table in the kingdom of God. According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took bread and blessed it and broke it and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

Reader 2:

Let us pray.

(praying) Gracious and Loving God, our hearts are filled with gratitude for all that you have done for us throughout the ages. You created us to love you and each other, and to care for this world you have made. You made covenants to teach us how to live with each other and you. You sent us prophets to remind us what it means to be faithful. And you sent your Son, Jesus Christ to save us from sin and death and open the door to eternal life with you.

Reader 3:

(praying) Lord, as we unite with you and each other in Communion, we pray that your Spirit and special blessings will rest upon those who are most in need: those who are sick, in the hospital, or recovering from illness; all those who are poor, hungry, homeless, or refugees; all those grieving the death of a loved one or neighbor; all those whose essential work places them at risk in order to help their neighbors during this pandemic.

Reader 4:

(praying) Lord, we share this bread and cup now as Christ commanded us to do, and as he did first with his disciples: in a small room, with fellow disciples, during an anxious and dangerous time, trusting you to be present with us through the power of your Holy Spirit, giving us strength and comfort and hope as you do.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Instructions for Sharing the Bread and Cup

Each person in turn, beginning with Reader 1, chooses someone who has not taken Communion yet and says, "(First Name), the Body of Christ, given for you; the Blood of Christ, shed for you." That person then takes Communion, and when finished, does the same for another person who has not yet taken Communion. Follow this process until everyone has both received and offered Communion with someone else.

When everyone has received, and after a few moments of silence, the service continues:

Reader 1:

(praying) Gracious and Loving God, we thank you for uniting us with each other and you through the power of your Spirit even when we are physically separated. Be with us as we go from this time of worship, and guide us as we try to show your love in everything we do. Through Christ we pray. **Amen.**

You may remain in silent reflection and prayer until you are invited from your "room" back into the larger worship service.