

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

6 “Be careful that you don’t practice your religion in front of people to draw their attention. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

2 “Whenever you give to the poor, don’t blow your trumpet as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets so that they may get praise from people. I assure you, that’s the only reward they’ll get. 3 But when you give to the poor, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing 4 so that you may give to the poor in secret. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you.

5 “When you pray, don’t be like hypocrites. They love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners so that people will see them. I assure you, that’s the only reward they’ll get. 6 But when you pray, go to your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you.

16 “And when you fast, don’t put on a sad face like the hypocrites. They distort their faces so people will know they are fasting. I assure you that they have their reward. 17 When you fast, brush your hair and wash your face. 18 Then you won’t look like you are fasting to people, but only to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

19 “Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them. 20 Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust don’t eat them and where thieves don’t break in and steal them. 21 Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe.

You are our God, and we are the creatures of your hand. You made us from the dust of the earth, breathed into us the breath of life, and set us in your world to love and serve you.

Even when we turned away from you, our Maker, you continued to love us, calling us through prophets to turn again to you in obedient love. *You sent Jesus to free us from the tyranny of sin. He lived as one of us, fully human, a creature full of your Spirit, who taught us your ways.*

Baptized as one of your own,
death by torture could not reduce him to nothing.

By his rising, he released us from bondage to sin,
freeing us to live as new people, citizens of the Kingdom of God.

Remembering all that Jesus taught us, we come to this table to serve one another in thanksgiving for all you’ve done for us, offering ourselves as a living sacrifice devoted to following in your way.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and juice that we may be united in true communion with you, one another, and all the saints of all times and places who forever sing your praise. Keep us one in Christ as we pray for the world, as he taught us to pray, saying,

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, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION

“How Deep the Father’s Love For Us”

James Walters Townend; arr. Mark Hayes

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

▲ CLOSING SONG

“Lift High the Cross”

#826

▲ BENEDICTION

▲ POSTLUDE



Ash Wednesday Worship
February 26, 2020 - 7 pm

ASH WEDNESDAY
Worship

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

In the Christian tradition,

the season of Lent ~ the six weeks preceding Easter plus the last four days of another week beginning today, Ash Wednesday ~ is a time to make a special spiritual pilgrimage.

It is a time of introspection and self-examination when we probe deeply and respond honestly to how we are getting on in the process of transformation into a new person in Jesus Christ. We journey to the cross, and there we gather for contemplation and celebration.

Reverend Claire Schlegel

Co-Pastor

Reverend Paul Knopf

Co-Pastor

James R. Walters

Music Director/Organist

John W. Wright

Choral Director

Cynthia A. Wright

Pianist

Saw Shein

Contemporary Music Leader

Tessa Islas

Youth Leader

Allison Robinson

Nursery Attendant

Diana Lewis

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Contemporary Worship Service 9:00 a.m.

Traditional Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT "Deep Within" David Haas
Chancel Choir

▲ CALL TO WORSHIP

Joel 2:1, 12-13 The Message

Blow the ram's horn trumpet in Zion!
Trumpet the alarm on my holy mountain!

Shake the country up!

God's Judgment's on its way—the Day's almost here!

But there's also this, it's not too late—God's personal Message!

"Come back to me and really mean it!

Come fasting and weeping, sorry for your sins!"

Change your life, not just your clothes.

Come back to God, your God. And here's why: God is kind and merciful. He takes a deep breath, puts up with a lot,

This most patient God, extravagant in love, always ready to cancel catastrophe.

▲ OPENING PRAYER

▲ OPENING HYMN

"O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!" #41

PROCLAIMING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Joel 2:1-2; 12-17 Common English Bible

CHORAL ANTHEM "Dust I Am" Mark Miller
Chancel Choir

SECOND READING Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Common English Bible

ASH WEDNESDAY MEDITATION

RESPONDING

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "O Love That Casts Out Fear" arr. John Leavittt
James Walters

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

▲ DOXOLOGY #609

INVITATION TO LENTEN DISCIPLINE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

RESPONSE SONG "Just as I am, without One Plea" #442

LITANY OF PENITENCE
Response: "***Christ, have mercy***"

BLESSING OF THE ASHES
God our Creator, you sent your beloved Son, Jesus, to be our brother. The burden of your love for humankind led him to accept death, even death on a cross, so that all people might live.
Though we were buried with Christ in baptism and raised up to a new life of freedom, we have not lived fully as your sons and daughters; your kingdom of love and justice is still not fully manifest in us.

Bless these ashes and your people whose head shall be marked with ashes. Grant that this may be a symbol of our inner renewal, a sign of our change and growth in Christ.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES "Dust and Ashes" David Haas
James Walters and John Wright

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Scripture Readings

Joel 2:1-2; 12-17

Blow the horn in Zion; give a shout on my holy mountain! Let all the people of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming. It is near—a day of darkness and no light, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread out upon the mountains, a great and powerful army comes, unlike any that has ever come before them, or will come after them in centuries ahead.

Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your hearts, with fasting, with weeping, and with sorrow; ¹³ tear your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, very patient, full of faithful love, and ready to forgive. ¹⁴ Who knows whether he will have a change of heart and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?

¹⁵ Blow the horn in Zion; demand a fast; request a special assembly.

¹⁶ Gather the people; prepare a holy meeting; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the groom leave his room and the bride her chamber. ¹⁷ Between the porch and the altar let the priests, the LORD's ministers, weep. Let them say, "Have mercy, LORD, on your people, and don't make your inheritance a disgrace, an example of failure among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

▲ All who are able, please stand.
Bold Italic text read in unison.

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