



# Ash Wednesday

## *A Service of Worship and Reflection*

March 2, 2022

7:00 p.m.

### **GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER**

PRELUDE

**“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”**

White

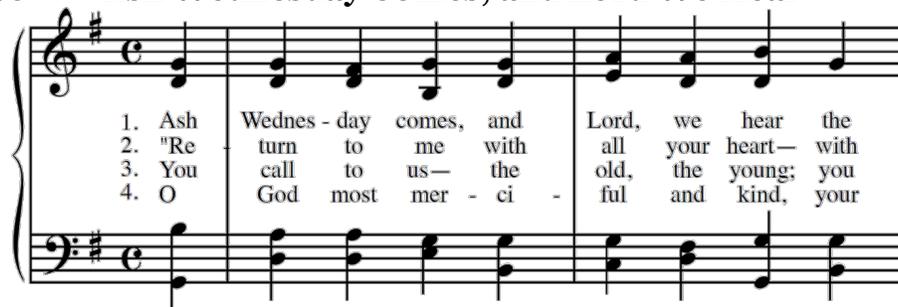
Susan Herman, flute & Trina Spivack, piano

WORDS OF PREPARATION AND REFLECTION

OPENING SONG

**“Ash Wednesday Comes, and Lord We Hear”**

Gillette



1. Ash Wednes - day comes, and Lord, we hear the  
2. "Re turn to me with all your heart— with  
3. You call to us— the old, the young; you  
4. O God most mer - ci - ful and kind, your



word for which our spir - its yearn; a - mid this world's dis -  
fast - ing, weep - ing, mourn - ing, too." O God, we seek a  
sum - mon na - tions strong and weak. When we have drift - ed  
love is not a prize we earn; yet in our life with



tress and fear, we hear your lov - ing call: "Re - turn!"  
brand new start, a new be - gin - ning here with you.  
toward the wrong, you call us back, your way to seek.  
you we find the joy that comes when we re - turn.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We come to worship God as the Lenten season begins, aware of our frailty and our failings.

**People: We come seeking God's mercy, acknowledging our mortality.**

Pastor: Having received the waters of baptism

**People: we come to be marked now with ashes.**

Pastor: May we humble ourselves before God not with a yoke of burden

**People: but a mantle of freedom in Jesus' name.**

## MUSIC

**"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"**  
Susan Herman & Trina Spivack

American folk tune

## REFLECTION

Allen C. McSween, Jr.

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 58:1-12

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: In quiet trust, in simple words, we enter a space for prayer. As we confess our sins, both secret and public, the door to God's heart is open, and we enter into grace and mercy.

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us. We have many treasures on earth that we hold too dearly; that we withhold from others in need. When we sin against neighbor, condone injustice, and quarrel with one another, we sin against you. Forgive us, we pray, for we are broken in spirit. Do not see us for our faults, and do not go away from us. Keep us always in your presence so that we may be restored to the joy of your salvation. Sustain in us a willing spirit to treasure what you desire; then our hearts will be opened in joy and gladness. In Jesus Christ, our Treasure, we pray. Amen.***

## DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: According to God's steadfast love, according to God's abundant mercy, God does not pass judgment on us, the judgment we deserve.

**People: God creates in us clean hearts and gives us a new and right spirit. In the grace of Jesus Christ, we return to God forgiven. Praise God for our salvation!**

## SONG

**"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"**

*Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart,*

*Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.*

*In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.*

*Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart,*

*Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.*

*In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.*

*Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart,*

*Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.*

*In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.*

*Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.*

REFLECTION

Andrea Wigodsky

RESPONSIVE READING OF PSALM 51:1-17

Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

**People: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.**

Pastor: Indeed, I am guilty. But 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 brighter than new-fallen snow. 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. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

**People: 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. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.**

Pastor: Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance. Open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

**People: For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

INVITATION TO OBSERVE THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

SONG

**“Here I Am to Worship”**

Hughes

*Light of the World, You stepped down into darkness  
Opened my eyes, let me see  
Beauty that made this heart adore You  
Hope of a life spent with You.*

*Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my God  
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me.*

*King of all days, Oh so highly exalted  
Glorious in heaven above  
Humbly You came to the earth You created  
All for love's sake became poor.*

*I'll never know how much it cost to see my sins up on that cross.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy God, as the Ordinary season now turns to Lent, we pray that you will guide us in the days ahead. As we journey with Jesus Christ, give us an abiding sense of your presence, an unguarded sense of ourselves, and an awareness of the needs of this world. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Silence*

Pastor: Loving God, as we are marked with the ashes of earth, we bring before you the frailty of our very human lives, the fragility of our health, the tenuousness of our accomplishments and plans, the changing nature of even our closest relationships. Grant us patience in suffering and healing from our ills. Give us, in equal measure, humility and hope in our pursuits. Bind us in covenantal love that is both constant yet able to change according to the needs and circumstances before us. Lord, in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Silence*

Pastor: Just God, you call us to loosen the bonds of injustice, to care for those in need, to lift the burdens that bind others. We ask you to increase our courage and our will to work for the freedom and peace you envision and demand. We pray for an end to warfare and conflict, accepting our calling to be peacemakers. We pray for an end to hunger and homelessness, knowing we are called to share our bread and to open our doors. We pray for an end to false righteousness, evil speech, and shallow piety in our lives, in the church, in our national life, and among all the nations. Lord, in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Silence*

Pastor: Forever God, we pray that your kingdom will come in fullness; that what is perishable will be raised imperishable; and that death itself will be swallowed up in victory; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**People: Amen.**

SONG

**“Bless the Lord My Soul”**

Berthier

*Bless the Lord, my soul,  
And bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul,  
Who leads me into life.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

***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.***

SONG

**“Return to God”**

Haugen

*Refrain:*

*Return to God with all your heart,  
The Source of grace and mercy;  
Come seek the tender faithfulness of God.*

*Now the time of grace has come, the day of salvation;  
Come and learn now the way of our God. (Refrain)*

*I will take your heart of stone and place a heart within you,  
A heart of compassion and love. (Refrain)*

*If you break the chains of oppression,  
If you set the prisoner free;  
If you share your bread with the hungry,  
Give protection to the lost; give a shelter to the homeless,  
Clothe the naked in your midst,  
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn. (Refrain)*

REFLECTION

Christopher A. Beeley

EPISTLE LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

REFLECTION

Maryetta Anschutz

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

LITANY AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Pastor: We bow our heads before you, O God, aware of our sinfulness and our shortcomings. Remembering our baptism, the watermark of the cross upon us,

**People: We also receive this ashen cross upon our foreheads – another sign that in life and in death, we belong to you.**

Pastor: In the name of Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and coming again, we pray. Amen.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*(Please come forward for the Imposition of Ashes and to receive Communion elements)*

SONG

**“Deep Within”**

Haas

*Deep within I will plant my law  
Not on stone, but in your heart.  
Follow me; I will bring you back.  
You will be my own, and I will be your God.*

*I will give you a new heart, a new spirit within you  
For I will be your strength.*

*Return to me with all your heart  
And I will bring you back.*

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

*(Wherever you are, in the Sanctuary or at home, partake of the bread and the cup)*

SONG

**“In Our Midst”**

DeVries

*Lord, we take this bread.  
We eat remembering you  
Lord, we take this cup.  
We drink remembering you  
Every time we eat this bread, every time we drink this cup  
You are here in our midst.  
You said this is the new covenant.  
This is the new covenant  
Sealed with My blood, your sins are washed away  
To let my love pour in*

SILENT REFLECTION

CLOSING SONG

**“Lead Me to the Cross”**

Fraser

*Savior, I come, quiet my soul,  
Remember redemption's hill  
Where Your blood was spilled for my ransom  
Everything I once held dear, I count it all as loss  
Lead me to the cross where Your love poured out.  
Bring me to my knees, Lord, I lay me down  
Rid me of myself; I belong to you  
Lead me, lead me to the cross.  
You were as I, tempted and tried,  
You are the Word became flesh,  
Bore my sin and death. Now You're risen  
Everything I once held dear, I count it all as loss*

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

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## ***WELCOME TO ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP***

This worship service introduces us to the season of Lent, the 40 days leading up to Easter. Lent traditionally begins on Ash Wednesday, so named because of the ancient practice of wearing ashes as a sign of humility and repentance. This practice was employed by Christians to signify total dependence on God.

**The Imposition of Ashes** is the actual marking on the forehead in the form of a cross with ashes that come from the burning of palms used on the previous Palm Sunday.

**The Lord's Supper** will be celebrated tonight after receiving the imposition of ashes. Proceed up the center aisle to receive your ashes, pick up your Communion elements at the table in the front of the Sanctuary, and return to your seat using the side aisles. Once you are seated, hold your bread and juice until the pastors lead us in the celebration of God's grace with the words of invitation.

**The Taizé Service** is a unique style of worship which includes periods of silence broken by brief readings of scripture and the singing of a certain style of music. Taizé music, largely written by members of the Taizé community, involves the use of simple, brief texts sung repetitively as a meditation. Taizé worship services are best when periods of silence are spent in centering prayer, meditation, contemplation and prayer.

**The Liturgical Color of Purple** in our sanctuary is a visual reminder that we are now in the season of Lent. Lent is a journey which leads us to Jesus' final days, his death, and finally on Easter morning, his resurrection. May the traditional Lenten colors serve as a reminder that we are to observe a holy Lent through self-examination, penitence, prayer, works of love, and reading/meditating on the Word of God.

**Liturgists:** Pastor Keith L. DeVries & Pastor Ivan N. Herman

**Musicians:** Tara Calderon, Jenny DeVries, Susan Herman, and Trina Spivack

***Childcare is available in Room 102.***



# **CARMICHAEL**

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