



7:00 PM

February 22, 2012

An offering will be received in the baskets at the center doors as you leave. It will be given to Knoxville FISH Hospitality Pantries serving people in need.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE Von Gott will ich nicht lassen (I) Dieterich Buxtehude
From God I Shall Not Turn

CALL TO WORSHIP John 3:17, Psalm 46:1-3 Nate Seidner

Leader: God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

People: God's love endures forever.

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

People: God's love endures forever.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

***HYMN NO. 81** (blue hymnal) Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days *St. Flavian*

THE WORD

***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** (*unison*)

God, by your Holy Spirit open our minds, that as the scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may be led into your truth. Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 58:1-12 Becca Millett

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL READING Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Sam Phillips

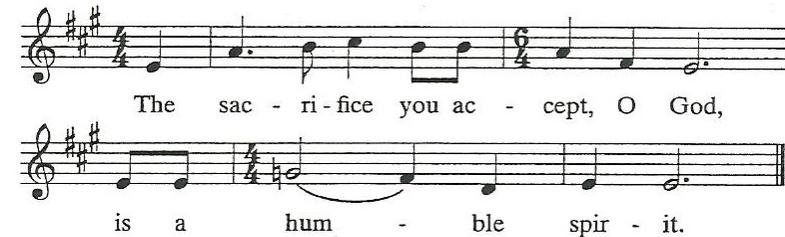
Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

SILENCE AND MEDITATION ON THE SCRIPTURES

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

CALL TO CONFESSION Psalm 51:1-17 (responsive)



Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness; Lily Seidner
in your great compassion, blot out my offenses.
Wash me through and through from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin. **Refrain.**

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.
And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgement.
Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb. **Refrain.**

For behold, you look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
Make me hear of joy and gladness,
and the body you have broken may rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not from your presence
and take not your Holy Spirit from me. *Refrain.*

Savannah Lockwood

Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful spirit.
I shall teach your ways to the wicked,
and sinners shall return to you.
Deliver me from death, O God,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.
Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,
but you take no delight in burnt offerings.
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. *Refrain.*

Eric Adamcik

SILENCE

LITANY OF PENITENCE (responsive)

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole community of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness: The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives, our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people, our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

People: we confess to you, O God.

Leader: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

People: we confess to you, O God.

Leader: Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

People: accept our repentance, O God.

Leader: For all false judgements and uncharitable thoughts, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

People: accept our repentance, O God.

Leader: For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

People: accept our repentance, O God.

Leader: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

People: Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES *(The people uniting.)*

Megan McClure

Almighty God, you have created us out of 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 Savior. Amen.

The people are invited to come forward to receive ashes: Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.

PRAYER / THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE SENDING

*HYMN NO. 301 (blue hymnal) Lord Jesus, Think on Me

Southwell

*BENEDICTION

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

As you depart, you are invited to greet your neighbors with the words, "**Peace be with you.**" The appropriate response is: "**And also with you.**"

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Barbara Adamcik, Youth Director
Renee Wieseuegel, Office Manager/Bookkeeper
Sandra Williams, Administrative Assistant
Debbie Bendy, *Abbey* Editor

A Lenten Series will be offered each Wednesday evening beginning February 29 through April 4. We will gather at 5:45 p.m. for a simple meal of soup and bread, followed by a service of evening prayers in the sanctuary. This reflective time focuses on scripture, song and prayer as we prepare ourselves for Easter.

IT IS A DUSTY WORLD

Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.

Those words are said repeatedly to each one of us who come to worship on the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday. Hearing these humbling words and receiving ashes does not require us to lament our finitude. Rather, taking these words seriously invites us to be grateful and courageous in using the gift of life and time we are given.

We are dust, so why delay in focusing on what is essential? Life is short and vulnerable. Almost overnight toddlers become teenagers, new acquaintances become trusted friends, discoveries become traditions. Today is the time to say "I love you." Now is the time to take steps to become what we feel God is calling us to be.

We are dust, so why wait to build the community in which we want our grandchildren to live? Soon daffodils turn to roses, which yield to chrysanthemums, which turn to poinsettias, but only if someone plants and tends them. Weeds sprout on their own in our dust; flowers require nurture. Something grows somewhere every day; will it be azaleas or thorns?

We are dust, so why worry needlessly? We cannot change the cosmos, but we can nourish the earth of which we are part. We can disdain violence. We can clasp hands rather than clench fists. We cannot provide absolute security, but we can be good neighbors. God can do wonderful things in this soil of our lives. God can bring an Easter of endless joy! We are dust, so take time during this penitential season of Lent to celebrate our faith which gives life and hope to dust. God graciously cares for eternity; our call is to live faithfully, gratefully and courageously here and now.

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of tenderness, and strengthen us to face our mortality, that we may reach with confidence for your mercy; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(The Book of Common Worship, p. 222)

John Muntz