

Ash Wednesday



7:00 PM

February 10, 2016

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE Jesu, meine Freude Michael Beyer

Jesu, My Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP John 3:17, Psalm 46:1-3 Eric Partelow

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*) Leah Milam

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

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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

Eliza Rowcliffe

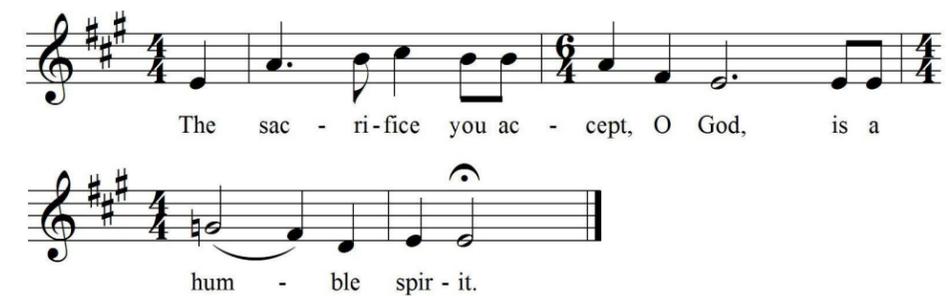
Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

SILENCE AND MEDITATION ON THE SCRIPTURES

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

CALL TO CONFESSION



Hear this, O Job; stop and consider the wondrous works of God. Listen, listen to the thunder of his voice and the rumbling that comes from his mouth.

God thunders wondrously with his voice; he does great things that we cannot comprehend.

For to the snow he says, "Fall on the earth;"

and the rain serves as a sign

so that all whom he has made may know him. *Refrain.*

Ellie Yates

Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep?

Have the gates of death been revealed to you, have you even comprehended the expanse of the earth? *Refrain.*

The Almighty is great in power and justice and abundant

in righteousness. Who has cut a channel for the torrents of rain, to bring rain on a land where no one lives to make the ground put forth grass? Can you bind the star clusters together or cause the stars to move through the sky?

Do you know the ordinances of the heavens?

Can you establish their rule on earth? Can you lift up your voice to the clouds so that a flood of waters may cover you?

Can you send forth lightning? Who has put wisdom in the inward parts or given understanding to the human mind?

Who has the wisdom to number the clouds? *Refrain.*

Clara Oakes

Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones

cry to God, and wander about for lack of food? Do you know when the mountain goats give birth? Do you observe the calving of the deer? Can you number the months that they fulfill, and do you know the time when they give birth, when they crouch to give birth to their offspring. Who has let the wild ass go free and graze upon the mountains? Is the wild ox willing to serve you?

Can you make the wings of the ostrich flap or give the horse its strength? Is it by your wisdom that the hawk soars, and spreads its wings to the south? Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up and makes its nest on high?

Hear this, O Job; stop and consider the wondrous works of God. *Refrain.*

Noah Burgin

SILENCE

LITANY OF PENITENCE (responsive)

Spencer Williams

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: I will be humble, comforted that I am dust.

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: I will be humble, comforted that I am dust.

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, with your gracious love.

People: I will be humble, comforted that I am dust.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES (*The people uniting.*)

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.” – Genesis 3:19

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.”**

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

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Angela Grobe, Director of Children’s Ministries

Mary Boyd, Education Coordinator

Renee Wiesehuegel, Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Sandra Williams, Administrative Assistant

Rev. Friedrich Schilling, Jr., Pastor Emeritus

Debbie Bendy, *Abbey* Editor

A LENTEN SERIES will be offered each Wednesday evening beginning February 17 and continuing through March 23. 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.

THE SESSION

Class of 2016

Jerry Faerber

Vicki Mayfield

Scott Porter

Elizabeth Ridley

Angela Shilling

Youth Elder: Ethan Partelow

Clerk of Session: Georgann Byerley

Class of 2017

Phil Barnette

Bitsy Ingram

William Milam

Bryan Powell

Brenda Seip

Class of 2018

Leigh Dunlap

Steve Hoadley

J.P. Mackay

Linda Van Beke

Michael Yates

TRUSTEES

John Smartt

Larry Ridley

Paul Jorden