

Ash Wednesday

March 6, 2019

7:00 PM

The congregation is asked to remain silent during the prelude as a time of prayer and meditation.

The Entrance

PRELUDE Gregory Land, Organist

Aria Flor Peeters
God So Loved the World John Stainer
from "The Crucifixion"
O Man, Bewail Thy Grievous Fall J. S. Bach

GREETING Rev. Dr. Kent Berghuis

Sharing of the Peace of Christ.

*OPENING HYMN #63 *Lead On, O King Eternal*
LANCASHIRE

With the encouragement of his fellow graduating classmates, Ernest W. Shurtleff wrote this text in 1887 for Andover Theological Seminary's commencement ceremonies. Winning immediate acclaim, the text was published in Shurtleff's *Hymns of the Faith* that same year. Since that publication it has appeared in many American hymnals.

Proclamation and Response

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*Unison*) Rev. David Coggins, Leader

Holy God, our lives are laid open before you: as we hear your word today, rescue us from the chaos of sin and, through the death of your Son, bring us healing and make us whole in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON - *Joel 2:1-2, 12-17* Rev. Coggins

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—²a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. ¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain

offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. ¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

Pastor: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 51 (*Responsive*) Ron Jacobs Young, Leader

MUSICAL RESPONSE:



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.

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.

Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

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 whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

(MUSICAL RESPONSE)

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.

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.

Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

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.

(MUSICAL RESPONSE)

*GOSPEL LESSON - *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21* Nancy Milligan

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord according to Matthew.
People: Praise be to you, O Christ.

"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Pastor: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Chancel Choir

Create In Me a Clean Heart Carl F. Mueller

Create in 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. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways: and sinners shall be converted unto me.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Berghuis

“Fasting God Chooses”

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

#171 *What Wondrous Love Is This*
WONDROUS LOVE

Although various sources have attributed this text to a number of different writers, it remains anonymous. *What Wondrous Love Is This* was first published in both Stith Mead's hymnal for Methodists, *A General Selection of the Newest and Most Admired Hymns and Spiritual Songs*, and in Starke Dupuy's hymnal for Baptists, *Hymns and Spiritual Songs*.

Invitation to the Observance of a Holy Lent

LITANY OF PENITENCE

Rev. Tim Forbess, Leader

(The congregation responds with the text in bold.)

God the Father,

Have mercy on us.

God the Son,

Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,

Have mercy on us.

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity,

Have mercy on us.

From our pride, vanity, and hypocrisy, and from all our evil plans,

Deliver us.

From our envy and malice, and from our hardness of heart,

Deliver us.

From our sloth and worldliness, and from our lack of compassion,

Deliver us.

From our love of money, our hoarding of possessions, and from our relentless desire to accumulate more,

Deliver us.

From the lust for sexual pleasure that obscures the true gift of love in us and in others,

Deliver us.

From the gorging of food, the indulging of our appetites, and from our neglect of the hungry,

Deliver us.

From our hatred, anger, and quick temper, and from our reluctance to be reconciled with those we have hurt,

Deliver us.

Give us true repentance; forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and our deliberate sins; and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your holy word.

Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Debts & Debtors*)

Rev. Forbess

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Jason Alspaugh

PRAYER OVER THE ASHES

Rev. Alspaugh

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(Those wishing to receive ashes will come forward to the stations.)

Various Instrumental Selections

Sending Forth

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Berghuis

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

#595 *At the Cross*
HUDSON

Ralph E. Hudson immortalized the words of this great hymn written by Isaac Watts when he added the musical refrain that many throughout the world have come to know as *At the Cross*. This hymn is a favorite throughout all Christendom and in many congregations especially throughout the southeastern United States, Midwest, and Appalachia.

*POSTLUDE

Gregory Land

Pavane, Opus 50 Gabriel Fauré

**Please stand*



First Baptist Church of Dayton
First United Methodist Church

ASH WEDNESDAY

MARCH 6, 2019



Today, Ash Wednesday, marks the beginning of Lent, which is the penitential season lasting 40 days before Easter but excluding the six Sundays (considered feast days). These forty days recall the Israelites' forty years in the desert and Jesus' forty days in the wilderness. As Christians begin the season of Lent today, Ash Wednesday is an opportunity for us to go deeper into our hearts and into the souls of our communities, and to recognize the horror and depth of our estrangement from God. In practicing the disciplines of Lent, such as self-examination and repentance, we seek systematically to put things right.

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