



Trinity Reformed
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ASH WEDNESDAY
MARCH 6, 2019 - 6:30 P.M.

*Designates "Those who are able please stand."

WELCOME Rev. Peggy Stout

PRELUDE "The Inward Heart—Meditation for Lent"
by Gilbert M. Martin/Marty Light, Organist

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Responsively*) Jerry Mallonee, Liturgist
Create in us pure hearts, O God,
And put a new and loyal spirit in us.
Do not banish us from your presence, O Lord;
Do not take your Holy Spirit away from us.
Give us again the joy that comes from your salvation;
And make us willing to obey you.

*HYMN "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" #21 Blue Book

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (*responsively*)
Jerry Mallonee, Liturgist
Almighty and Merciful God, we come before you in the quiet of this sanctuary and in the company of friends and loved ones who are part of our fellowship, to offer our prayers of contrition.
We humbly come into your presence to receive the mark of ashes as a sign of our mortality and our repentance.
We want this 40 day Lenten journey to be a time of close communion with you.
Let your Holy Spirit be upon us as we remember that it is through your Son, Jesus Christ, that we have the promise of eternal life. Amen.
(Please be seated).

ORGAN MEDITATION "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"
Marty Light (#115 Blue Book)

ancient phrase, "From dust you have come and to dust you shall return". From the ashes of despair comes new Life through Christ. Praise be to God!

*HYMN "Lead On, O King Eternal" #595 Blue Book

*BENEDICTION Rev. Peggy Stout

*POSTLUDE "My Song Is Live Unknown"
by Edwards/arr by Birchwood—Marty Light

A FREEWILL OFFERING for the poor will be received in the jars at the back of the Sanctuary. Proceeds will go to The Corner Table.

LENT is a period of searching and sacrifice. Since the fourth century this season has been devoted to Christian nurture through discipline and penitence. Lent begins today on Ash Wednesday, (the 40th weekday before Easter) and concludes at noon on the Saturday of Holy Week. The forty days are variously identified with the forty days during which Jesus fasted in the wilderness after his baptism, the forty days spent by Moses on Sinai, the forty hours of Christ's entombment, and the forty days between the resurrection and the ascension.

The placing of ashes upon the forehead on this day (called Ash Wednesday) is symbolic of a day of mourning and repentance. It is a day of recognizing our sin before God, confessing, and being accepted as a redeemed people. A Pascal Candle, hinting of the coming resurrection is left burning at the close of the service.



Upcoming Lenten Services

Rev. Peggy will be leading a study on the Adam Hamilton book, "Simon Peter: Flawed But Faithful Disciple."

He was not rich or educated, but was familiar with hard work. He was quick-tempered and impetuous, but possessed a passion that would change the world. He left everything to follow his teacher, yet struggled with doubt and fear. Join pastor and author Adam Hamilton in this six-week Lenten journey, and take an in-depth dive into the life, faith, and character of Simon Peter.

(A copy of the book may be purchased from the church office, if you are interested—\$12).

Lenten Book-Study Dates & Times:

MARCH 13: 11:30am in the Parlor *(Please bring a sandwich).*

MARCH 20: 6:00pm in the Parlor

MARCH 27: 11:30am in the Parlor *(Please bring a sandwich).*

APRIL 3: 6:00pm in the Parlor

APRIL 10: 11:30am in the Parlor *(Please bring a sandwich).*

APRIL 18: Maundy Thursday Worship

6:30pm in the Sanctuary

(with special music by Marty Light, Martha Caldwell & The Chancel Choir)

APRIL 21: Easter Sunday

Community-wide Sunrise Service at 6:30am.

Community-wide Breakfast at 7:30am.

Sunday School at 9:30am.

Easter Cantata at 10:30am.

**NO "Faith Alive!" Worship at 5:00pm.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*responsively*) Rev. Peggy Stout
Together, as Christ's body, let us confess our sin and express our longing to live in joyful obedience to God:

Let us pray: Holy and Merciful God, we come tonight realizing that we are not how you want us to be. We don't always think, do, or say the things that reflect the character of our Lord Jesus.

Have mercy on us, O God!

We often make choices that benefit us without regard to others. We condone injustice and see the faults of others, but not our own.

Forgive us, O God!

There have been times when we have been more concerned about what people think of our religious practices than we have been about whether or not they draw us closer to you.

Forgive us, O Lord!

Hear now the silent confessions of our individual hearts: _____.

May the spiritual disciplines which we undertake in this holy season give us a deeper understanding of the significance of Christ's life, death, and resurrection that we may truly show forth His love for all humanity in all that we say and do.

In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (*responsively*) Rev. Peggy Stout
"Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. He was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. Upon Him was the chastisement that makes us whole, and with His stripes we are healed." (*Isaiah 53:4-5*) May you know that God loves you, forgives you, welcomes you, and rejoices in you.

Thanks be to God!

HYMN "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" (vs 1&4) #421 Blue Book

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*unison*) Jessica Spain, Lay Reader
God of mercy, we need the light of your Word to break forth into our lives. Guide us through the power of your Holy Spirit that the parched and dry

spaces in our lives may become like a watered garden, renewed and refreshed to live for you. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS: Isaiah 58:1-11
Jessica Spain, Lay Reader

Psalm 51:1-2, 10-13, 17 Stacy Helton, Lay Reader

CHOIR ANTHEM "Create in Me A Clean Heart" by Mueller
Chancel Choir—Martha Caldwell, Director

GOSPEL READING Matthew 6:1-8 Rev. Peggy Stout

SHORT MEDITATION Rev. Peggy Stout

SPECIAL MUSIC "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" Chancel Choir
#253 Blue Book (*congregation please join on vs 3*)

***THE ASHES OF FORGIVENESS** - (*responsively*)

Ashes are a symbol of purity. As a fire burns, it separates what is valuable from what is worthless. In this same way, God is pure. Through God's Spirit, we are made valuable-- "The old leaves us; the new arrives."

Let us pray in unison: God of love and mercy, we come to You in prayer, seeking to change our hearts and minds. We have sinned and come short of Your glory. We confess that we have failed You. Cleanse us and make us whole again. Purify our hearts. In place of our old ways, fill us with the fire of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Friends, receive the good news of our faith through Jesus Christ, --- Your sins are forgiven. "The old is gone. Behold, the new has come!" ***Thanks be to God!***

Those who wish, may now come forward via the center aisle as the organ plays and receive the mark of the ashes as a sign of your forgiveness and new life. Those who wish not to participate may remain seated.

(Participants are asked to come up to the front of the chancel. One by one the pastor and/or elder will mark with ASHES your foreheads as we meditate upon the

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