

Ash Wednesday



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

E C C L E S I A S T E S 3 : 2 0

Ash Wednesday Service

February 17, 2021

Bethany Presbyterian Church

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
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CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Let us worship God – God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

P: God's love endures forever.

L: 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.

P: God's love endures forever.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

HYMN "Be Thou My Vision"

1-Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart - Naught be all else to me, save that thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night - Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light

2-Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word - I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father, and I thy true son -Thou in me dwelling and I with thee one

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

First Reading Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

³"Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 p.1006

²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, 'At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.' See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Gospel Reading Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

'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. ²So 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.

Ash Wednesday Message Denise Ann Todero, CP

Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline

(Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.)

Litany of Penitence

L: Let us pray.

P: Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion 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.

L: 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.

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: 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.

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness: The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

P: we confess to you, O God.

L: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,

P: we confess to you, O God.

L: Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

P: we confess to you, O God.

L: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

P: we confess to you, O God.

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

P: we confess to you, O God.

L: 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,

P: accept our repentance, O God.

L: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

P: accept our repentance, O God.

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

P: accept our repentance, O God.

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

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

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(This year with COVID - the imposition of ashes will be different than in the past. If you choose to receive ashes, please take the container of ashes and at the Pastors lead, place the sign of the cross on your forehead or hand yourself or place the ashes on your family member and have them do the same for you. Those who do not wish to receive ashes, please spend this time in silent reflection.)

L: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

P: That we may show forth your glory in the world.

L: By the cross and passion of our Savior,

P: bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.

ALL: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Gen. 3:19

THE EUCHARIST

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy.....who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy, O God of majesty.....Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer

Communion of the People (*All believers are welcome to celebrate Holy Communion. All will partake together saying:)*

**The body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven.
The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.**

Communion Prayer

***God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself.
Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts and
serve one another in holy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen***

HYMN "Breathe on Me, Breathe of God"

1-Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love, And do what Thou wouldst do.

2-Breathe on me, Breath of God, Until my heart is pure,
Until with Thee I will one will, To do and to endure.

3- Breathe on me, Breath of God, Till I am wholly Thine,
Until this earthly part of me Glows with Thy fire divine.

4- Breathe on me, Breath of God, So shall I never die,
But live with Thee the perfect life Of Thine eternity.

BENEDICTION

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Denise Ann Todero, Pastor, Bethany Presbyterian

Nancy Hoover, Pastor, Grace Lutheran

ORGANIST: Mr. John Griffin