



Ash Wednesday Worship

February 26, 2020 5:30 pm



Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Welcome & Explanation of the Evening

Call to Worship

As the season of Lent begins, we are summoned by a gracious and merciful God.

We respond to God's steadfast love, calling us into solemn assembly.

Let us gather for self-examination; let us bow before the Lord our Maker.

We approach God in reverence and wonder, rejoicing that God delights when we approach holy places.

On this sacred occasion, and in this holy place, we seek the One who grants us life.

We remember the One who gave his life for us all.

Gathering Hymn *Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT, Doris Akers, 1962

Blessing the Meal & Breaking Bread Together

Song *Come and Fill Our Hearts*

Taize, CONFITEMINI DOMINO, 1982

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!

Scripture Reading (responsive) Psalm 51: 1-17

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.

I know my transgressions. My sin is ever before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight.

You are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

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

You desire truth in the inward being. Teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, so I shall be clean. Wash me; I shall be whiter than snow.

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

Hide your face from my sins. Blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God. Put a new and right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence. Do not take your holy spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain with me a willing spirit.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways. Sinners will return to you.

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

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

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.

Choir Song *Come, Ye Sinners*

Southern Harmony, Joseph Hart, 1759

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

Choir Song *Dona Nobis Pacem (Give Us Peace)*

Text: late 18th c; music: arr. 2012

Meditation on Ash Wednesday

Song *Be Still and Know that I Am God*

Iona Community, John Bell, 1989

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

Imposition of Ashes “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

As the ashes are being placed, the congregation is invited to sing *Sanctuary*.

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary;

pure and holy, tried and true.

*With thanksgiving I'll be a living
sanctuary for you.*

Prayer for the Gathered Community & The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sending Hymn *Abide with Me* (vv. 1, 3, 5)

EVENTIDE, Henry Francis Lyte, 1847



Let today be the
day you give up
who you've been
for you who can
become.

Blessed Ash Wednesday