



Ash Wednesday Service of Worship
February 17, 2021

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Book of Common Worship (WJKP, 2018), 247

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

arr. Sandra Eithun

Charter Ringers I

Angela Krug, Lara Schesser, Pam Kelly, Jim Kelly, & Kathy Bures

Celia Nicholas, director — Chris Krug, accompanist

*Beautiful Savior, Ruler of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For 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. For 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! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

“St. Basil’s Hymn”
Cal Sweeten, hammered dulcimer

Traditional Greek Hymn

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS *(video)*

IMPOSITION OF ASHES *(responsive)*

**ALL: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.
May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence,
for it is only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

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

Gen. 3:19

participants impose the ashes/element at home

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

based on 1 Thess. 5:23

MUSIC FOR SENDING

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

American Folk Hymn

Cal Sweeten, hammered dulcimer

*And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on;
and when from death I’m free, I’ll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on;
and through eternity I’ll sing on.*

Ash Wednesday—Meditation Guide

1. Sins against our relationship with God.

Pride, self-satisfaction, self-righteousness, hard-heartedness.

Worship: more performance than true devotion

Holding back tithing/pledging to God's house

Too little time spent in prayer, reading the Word,

Idolatry—making something/someone more important than God

Hypocrisy - actions don't match beliefs, inauthenticity

Joyless work in God's house instead of joyful work by God's side

Allowing the world to change us instead of our changing the world

Not giving God first consideration in all decisions

Slowness to acknowledge and confess sins...

2. Sins against our relationship with each other.

Lack of love for each other; little true connection between us

Demanding total agreement; demonizing others for holding different opinions

Judgmental spirit: lack of grace, rigidity, being overly demanding

Talking more than listening

Gossiping

Complaining

Not taking in what the other is saying and instead reacting immediately against it

Leaders not bringing prophetic challenges to people

3. Sins against our relationship with those outside the Church.

Lack of sacrificial service to the poor and oppressed

Separating ourselves from the world: not seeing social problems that keep people
oppressed and captive

Weak engagement with those who set social policies

Lack of passion for those who don't know Jesus; failure to build bridges through service

Failure to call others to live by love, justice and peace

Lack of vision for the church in our city/region

Weakness in intercessory prayer for others and our ministries

Lack of equal respect for and between all cultures

Consumer mentality, allowing our possessions to own us instead of investing in God's work

Laziness – "Let someone else do it."

Failure to live as good stewards of the earth and all God has provided for us

Acceptance of social sins that enslave and hurt others— pornography, slave labor practices, domestic violence, genocide, war, limiting access to food, housing, healthcare, etc.

Refusing to blow the whistle on social and personal sin so that others may know God's love for all ...

4. Personal reflections and confession:

Pride—the refusal to recognize our status as creatures, dependent upon God.

Irreverence—deliberate neglect of God's worship, or contentment with casual participation.

Cynicism toward things set apart for worshipping God or use of Christianity for personal advantage.

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GRACE COVENANT

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