

Joint Worship of
St. James Lutheran Church
Presiding: Pastor Tonia Fisher
and
Community Congregational Church
Presiding: Pastor Kate Stulce

Ash Wednesday
March 2nd, 2022



Gather

Prelude & Silent Meditation

Opening Words and Greeting

Rev. Tonia Fisher

Call to Worship

P: We gather in the dimness of evening

C: to be with the God who brightens the shadows of our lives.

P: We gather in the quiet of this place,

C: to be with Jesus, knowing that nothing past, present or future separates us.

P: We gather to be marked as disciples,

C: to be fed for the journey through Lent, to be sealed by the Spirit as God's own.

Gathering Hymn: "Be Now My Vision" vs 1 & 4



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Prayer of Confession (based on Psalm 51)

- P: Have mercy on me, God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.*
- P: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.*
- C: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.**
- P: Against You, You alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,*
- P: So, You are justified in Your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.*
- C: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**
- P: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*
- P: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice;*
- C: 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.**
- P: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.*
- P: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.*
- C: Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.**
- P: 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.*
- P: For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, You would not be pleased.*
- C: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

We Respond to God's Love

(There are two stations tonight for the imposition of ashes. Those who wish to receive ashes are invited to come forward to have the sign of the cross placed on their foreheads or hands as a sign of penitence, not only for our individual sin, but also in recognition of our complicity in the sin of the world.)

Special Music: "Just As I Am"

Combined Choir

Word

Ash Wednesday Litany:

- P: O God, be merciful to me because Your love is strong;*
- C: Now wash me from iniquity and cleanse me from all wrong.**
- P: These words are old, but still they live within our hearts today.*
- C: We cry to You: "O God, forgive!" and "Wash our sins away!"**
- P: My sin has kept me far from You; Your wrath is justified.*
- C: Why is it, Lord? - The things I do have crushed my bones inside!**
- P: I try to make it on my own as if I'm all I need,*
- C: Until I find I'm all alone, wrapped up in pride and greed.**
- P: Yet this is not the final word, for You forgive our sin!*
- C: When we return to You, O Lord, You give us joy again.**

Homily

Rev. Kate Stulce

Reflection Hymn: "What Wondrous Love is This" vs 1

1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my
soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

Meal

Preparation

P: Healing God, we come before you broken, yet seeking wholeness, isolated, yet seeking community, overwhelmed, yet seeking simplicity, shamed, yet seeking grace:

C: God, we yearn for the healing you promise.

P: God of Justice, we come before you selfish, yet seeking a generous heart, arrogant, yet seeking humility, responsible for injustices, yet seeking forgiveness:

C: God, we yearn for the justice you promise.

P: God of Peace, we come before you afraid, yet seeking assurance, agitated, yet seeking serenity, angry, yet seeking a forgiving heart:

C: God, we yearn for the peace you promise.

P: Knowing that through Christ all things are made new,

C: We come to this communion table to be recreated through the bread and cup, and to be renewed in our faith and commitment. Amen.

Words of Institution

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Let us Bless the Elements

Creator and Preserver of all humankind, we give you thanks for the gift of your son Jesus, in whose life we see love for all people. Bless these ordinary elements, the bread and the cup, that refresh us and renew us in our faith. And let them be reminders that you transform our world through ordinary things and through ordinary people. Amen.

Sharing of the Elements (both white grape juice and red wine are available)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Holy God, here at this table your promise of love is made real.

C: We have rested in the depth of your love; we have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence; we accept you into our bodies and into our lives. Together, at this table, you have offered us life. Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer. And we give you thanks. Amen.

We Go to Serve

Benediction

Sending Hymn: "Oh, Sacred Head Now Wounded"



1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?
re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;
Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,
These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.
for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

Dismissal

P: Forgiven and called,

C: We are sent to love and serve the Lord

Blessings on your Lenten Journey
Pastor Tonia & Pastor Kate