



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASH WEDNESDAY

Sacrament of Holy Communion

17 February 2021 + 6:30 p.m.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Voluntary

Prelude in B-flat-minor

Johann Sebastian Bach

***Call to Worship**

Ben Bassett

We come to worship God as the Lenten season begins, aware of our frailty and our failings. We come seeking God's mercy, acknowledging our humanity. Having received the waters of baptism, we are marked now with ashes. May we store treasures in heaven, for where our treasures are, there our hearts will be. Come, let us worship God.

***Hymn**

Lord, Speak to Me

Canonbury

Lord, speak to me that I may speak in living echoes of your tone.
As you have sought, so let me seek your erring children, lost and lone.
O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wandering and the wavering feet.
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed your hungering ones with manna sweet.
O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious truths which you impart.
And wing my words that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.
O fill me with your fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'er-flow.
in kindling thought and glowing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.
O use me, Lord, use even me, just as you will, and when, and where
until your blessed face I see, your rest, your joy, your glory share.

***Prayer of the Day**

Abigail Eldridge

Gracious God, with whom we walk our Lenten journey, come and fill us with your Holy Spirit that we may speak words of kindness along the way to the cross. Through your grace and mercy, may we be mindful of the words we speak and serve you with thoughtful hearts. Embraced by your strong and loving arms, may we live lives that speak to who you are and who you call us to be. Amen.

***Litany of Confession**

James Maeda

Have mercy, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our sin, which is ever before us. We have done what is evil in your sight. Forgive us, we pray, for we are broken in spirit. Do not see us for our faults, and do not go away from us. Keep us always in your presence, so that we may be restored to the joy of your salvation. Sustain us in a willing spirit so that our hearts will be restored in joy and gladness. Hear now our silent prayers of confession:

Sung Response

Change My Heart, O God

Eddie Espinosa

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.
You are the potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

*Assurance of Pardon

Scripture Reading

Psalm 103:8-14

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer and Rev. Trajan I. McGill

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
*The Lord will not always accuse,
nor will the Lord keep the Lord's anger forever.*
The Lord does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
*For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is the Lord's steadfast love toward those who fear the Lord;*
as far as the east is from the west,
so far the Lord removes our transgressions from us.
*As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear the Lord.*
For the Lord knows how we were made;
the Lord remembers that we are dust.

Musical Reflection

Wayfaring Stranger

Traditional Appalachian Folk Hymn

I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger traveling through this world of woe
Yet, there's no sickness, toil, nor danger in that bright land to which I go.
I'm going there to see my Father; I'm going there no more to roam;
I'm only going over Jordan, I'm only going over home.

I know dark clouds will gather o'er me, I know my way is rough and steep;
Yet beautiful fields lie just before me, where God's redeemed their vigils keep.
I'm going there to see my Mother, she said she'd meet me when I come;
I'm only going over Jordan, I'm only going over home.

I want to wear a crown of glory, when I get home to that good land;
I want to shout salvation's story, in concert with that freedom band.
I'm going there to meet my Savior, to sing his praise forevermore,
I'm only going over Jordan, I'm only going over home.

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-13

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

Musical Response

Meaning of the Bookmark

Lucy Bassett

As we journey into this season, the bookmark is a reminder of the power of words, especially the Word of God that gives new mercies each day. Thank you for affirming each of us as your beloved child and empowering us to build each other up with the words we speak. Lord, we remember that you welcome each of us through your Word and invite us to live lives that speak to the grace we have received through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Meaning of the Ashes

Macklin Metzger

We begin our journey to Holy Week with the sign of ashes. The ashes come from the branches of last year's palms. This sign reminds us of our humanity, the uncertainty of our days, the certainty of our loving Creator and the need for healing and wholeness. Lord, we remember that we are created by you and belong to you in life and in death.

Symbolic Imposition of Ashes

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Meaning of Holy Communion

Taryn Barnett

We partake of the gifts the Lord spreads before us at the table of communion as a good and healing gift, and a visible sign of the love Christ. As we receive the bread and the cup we remember Jesus offered his body and blood when he died on the cross. Jesus, the Word of God, brings healing and wholeness to our lives. Lord, we remember your gift of healing and wholeness as we share in the bread of life and cup of salvation.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. Let us lift our hearts and give thanks to the Lord our God. Let us pray.

It is our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe.... Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, 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.

Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine.... Hear now the prayer Christ taught us to pray, saying:

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Words of Institution

Music at Communion

The Gift of Love

American Folk Tune

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love; my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.
Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
But not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.
Come, spirit come, our hearts control. Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed. By this we worship, we are freed. Amen.

*Prayer after Communion

Holy and Loving God, who joined us in our humanity in Jesus Christ, we are grateful for the sign of the ashes, which reminds us of our mortality; and for the nourishment we receive at your table to strengthen us for our journey into Lent. We remember, with hope and joy, that in life and in death we belong to you. Amen.

*Hymn

Day is Done

Ar Hyd y Nos

Day is done, but love unfailing dwells ever here;
shadows fall, but hope, prevailing, calms every fear.
God, our Maker, none forsaking, take our hearts, of love's own making;
watch our sleeping; guard our waking; be always near.
Dark descends, but light unending shines through our night;
you are with us, ever lending new strength to sight:
one in love, your truth confessing, on in hope of heaven's blessing,
may we see, in love's possessing, love's endless light!
Eyes will close, but you unsleeping watch by our side.
Death may come; in love's safe-keeping still we abide.
God of love, all evil quelling, sin forgiving, fear dispelling,
stay with us, our hearts in-dwelling, this eventide.

*Blessing and Charge

Voluntary

Fugue in B-Flat-minor

Johann Sebastian Bach

(*) *The congregation is invited to stand.*

Participants in the Service

The Reverend Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer

The Reverend Trajan Iliff McGill

The Reverend Christian Ko Choi

Dale Thomas Rogers

Taryn Barnett, Ben and Lucy Bassett, Abigail Eldridge, James Maeda, Macklin Metzger, Liturgists

Lyle VanDeventer, Bass Special Music: Amelia Tungett

Sara Eldridge and Mike Sundquist, Ushers