

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

March 2, 2022



*“Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help,
and he will say, Here I am.”*

~ Isaiah 58:9 (NRSV)



A painting by Mike Moyers depicting the cross of ashes imposed on Ash Wednesday. The painting style conveys the themes of mortality, brokenness, and our need of Gods grace

Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG

BERTHIER

Wait for the Lord

Ostinato Refrain

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Trial: Isaiah 40, Philippians 4, Matthew 6:10, 7:7; Titled: Community, 1984
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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GREETING

PRESIDER

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Presider

Let us look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,

Many

Jesus, who for the joy that was waiting, endured the cross.

Jesus came to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind,

Jesus came to liberate those who are oppressed, and to proclaim the year of God's favor.

Come, let us remember Jesus's life, ministry, and message.

*OPENING HYMN

“AGAIN WE KEEP THIS SOLEMN FAST” vs 1-3

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*SERVICE OF THE ASHES

Presider Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:
the early Christians observed with great devotion
the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection,
and it became the custom of the Church
that before the Easter celebration
there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation.

S. Minister During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism.
It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins
and had separated themselves from the community of faith
were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness,
and restored to participation in the life of the Church.

Presider In this way the whole congregation was reminded
of the mercy and forgiveness
proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ
and the need we all have to renew our faith.

S. Minister I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church,
to observe a holy Lent:
by self-examination and repentance;
by prayer, fasting, and self-denial;
by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word,
or by whatever spiritual practice supports your Lenten focus.

Presider To make a right beginning of repentance,
and as a mark of our mortal nature,
let us now bow before our Creator and Redeemer.

[A brief silence is kept, the congregation kneeling or bowed.]

*THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.
Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence,
so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift
are we given everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

*IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

[After receiving ashes, you are invited to return to your seats and kneel or sit.]

Service of the Word

POEM

“BEING POSITIVE”

RUPI KAUR

A reflection on Christ's experience of suffering.

the world gives you so much pain
and here you are
making you gold out of it
there is nothing purer than that

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

STUDENT MINISTER

May the same Spirit who inspired the writing of God's word,
be with us today as the word is delivered, that in reading and hearing,
we may encounter the Divine. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 58:1-12

NRSV

A reading from the Book of Isaiah, chapter 58, verses 1 through 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. Yet 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. “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.
Look, 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. Is 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?
Is 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? Is 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? Then 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. Then 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, if 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. The 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, whose waters never fail.

Hear what God is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

DR. JULIA O'BRIEN

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

STUDENT MINISTER

**Almighty and ever living God,
you invite us deeper into your world, your people, your Lent.
May this time be one of outward focus;
seeking you in those we often ignore.
Help us to live focused on freedom, generosity, and encounter.
Give us hearts hungry to serve you
and those who need what we have to give.
Amen.**

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG

"WAIT FOR THE LORD"

INSTRUMENTAL

***THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Presider Please rise, as able, as we enter the liturgy of Holy Communion.
The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to You, Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

How can we thank you, O God?

for sun and moon and stars,

for breath and life and all things good,

for your steadfast promise and your faithful love,

for the day that is surely coming when all things will be made new,
every breach, repaired.

With saints, with angels, and with the whole creation,

we join the ancient and eternal hymn:

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.

S. Minister

We give you thanks, Holy God, for Jesus,

who came to be your living Word,

to baptize us with Spirit and fire,

to feed the hungry, to humble the mighty,

and to announce the good news of your coming realm.

With thanksgiving, we remember how, when the hour had come,

Jesus took his place at the table with the apostles.

He said to them, "I will not eat this Passover again

until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

Presider

Then Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks,

he broke it and gave it to them, saying,

"This is my body, which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me. "

Presider

After supper, he took a cup, saying,

"This cup that is poured out for you

is the new covenant in my blood.

I will not drink of the fruit of the vine

until the kingdom of God comes."

With thanks and praise we offer ourselves to you,

Sharing this holy meal,

remembering Christ's dying and rising,

and praying: Come Lord Jesus!

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

S. Minister: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us—
This bread, this cup, these people—
Christ's body and blood,
given in love for the world.
Make us one in the Spirit,
one in the church, and one with Christ.
Make us gentle, joyful, thankful people,
serving our neighbors, worshiping you alone.
Keep us in the peace of Christ
until you gather us at your table in glory.
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
Now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRESIDER

We have a few COVID related options for those who wish to partake. If you wish to receive from the ministers, take an empty eco-friendly cup from the stack on the aisle table and approach the minister, who will place a piece of bread in your open hand. (Or take a cup that already has a piece of gluten-free bread in it, or take one of the sealed celebration cups with the wafer on top and juice beneath; hold them out to the minister for a blessing.) A minister will pour grape juice into your cup. Eat, drink, and dispose of the cup in the waste baskets at the side aisles as you return to your seat.

If you are unable to come forward, please signal the ministers and we will come to you at your seat. Those who prefer not to partake in Communion are invited to a different kind of divine encounter through an interfaith prayer of blessing. If this is your preference, we invite you to meet the preacher at the baptismal font.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at this table where Christ is the host.

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

PRESIDER

Creating, Redeeming, and Sustaining God, we are grateful for this experience of your lovingkindness and your tender mercies. In the strength of this nourishment we go into the world to humbly do your holy work of justice, love and mercy. Blessed be, Asche, and Amen.

*CLOSING SONG

“AGAIN WE KEEP THIS SOLEMN FAST” vs 4-5

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*BENEDICTION

SENDING & POSTLUDE

Listen to God; Bridge the chasm.

You are welcome to keep your bulletin, but if you do not wish to keep it please place it on the table at the entrance to the chapel as you leave.

Cover Art: Moyers, Mike. “Ash.” From Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/diglib-fulldisplay.pl?SID=20220220861985121&code=act&RC=57140&Row=29> [retrieved June 14, 2021].

Call to Worship: Modified from *The Book of Worship (UCC)*, United Church Press, pg 179.

Confession and Words of Assurance: <https://www.gcsrw.org/Portals/13/Site%20Migration/WHM.worship%20March%20202.pdf>

Prayers of the Community: “Lent Prayers,” author unknown. Accessed July 14, 2021, at <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/lent-prayers>

Poem: <https://onedio.co/content/24-empowering-short-poems-from-feminist-poet-rupi-kaur-12146>

Communion Liturgy: Kimberly Bracken Long, Ed., *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1: Advent through Pentecost, Sept 3, 2012, pg. 198-200.*

***The worship planning team creates all other parts of the liturgy except where noted.**

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THE WORSHIP TEAM SEEKS:

To serve the universal church of our Creator.
To minister to the unique and diverse needs of the seminary community.
To foster an expansive culture of worship that values difference and challenges the normative.