

# *The Worship of God*

February 22, 2012

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

Six Thirty O' Clock

*In preparation for this service of worship, reflect upon the prayer printed on the cover of the order of worship.*

## **PREPARATION AND PRAISE**

ORGAN PRELUDE: Rockingham

Kenneth Leighton

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 195: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" HAMBURG  
*(The congregation will stand when the organist begins the hymn.)*

\* THE CALL TO WORSHIP Joel 2:12-13, 21

Minister: Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning;

**People: Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord, your God.**

Minister: For gracious and merciful is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment.

**People: Fear not; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things!**

\* THE GLORIA PATRI (35) GREATOREX

\* THE INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

INTROIT

George Whelpton

Hear our prayer, O Lord, incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen.

THE READING OF THE SCRIPTURE

The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah: 58:1-12

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

\* HYMN 566: "Be Still, My Soul" FINLANDIA

## **CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE**

CHORAL CALL TO CONFESSION: "O Lord, Hear My Prayer" Taizé  
O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer.  
Come and listen to me.

THE RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Minister: Most Holy and merciful Father, we confess to you, to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned against you by our own fault in thought, word and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not sought forgiveness for our sin nor have we forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

**People: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Minister: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**People: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Minister: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives.

**People: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Minister: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

**People: We confess to you, Lord.**

Minister: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**People: We confess to you, Lord.**

Minister: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

**People: We confess to you, Lord.**

Minister: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

**People: We confess to you, Lord.**

Minister: Accept our repentance for the wrongs we have done; for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**People: Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Minister: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

**People: Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Minister: For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**People: Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Minister: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

**People: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.**

*Silence*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*sung*) WONDROUS LOVE

Choir: 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!

**All: 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 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, I'll sing on!**

*The congregation will join the choir on the last response as directed.*

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*At the invitation of the minister and as the organist begins playing, you are invited to come forward for the imposition of the ashes. Please use the center aisle as you approach the altar and the side aisles as you return to your seat.*

## THE CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

ANTHEM: "Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God" Carl Mueller

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation and uphold me with thy free Spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Create in me a clean heart, O God.  
Psalm 51

THE PSALTER LESSON: Psalm 51:1-17

HOMILY "Restore To Me the Joy of Thy Salvation" Dr. Wright

PRAYER

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

HANDBELL MEDITATION: "Prayer" Arnold B.Sherman

*At the invitation of the ministers, and as the handbell choir begins playing, you are invited to come forward for communion. Forming two lines, please use the center aisle as you approach the altar and the side aisles as you return to your seat. If you prefer to remain seated, a Deacon will serve you. This evening we will take the bread and the cup by intinction, dipping the bread into the common cup. You will take a piece of bread from the plate offered by the minister and dip it into the chalice offered by one of the Deacons. You may then place the bread in your mouth. A common response when taking communion is to say, "Thanks be to God." or a simple, "Amen."*

\* HYMN 124: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" PICARDY

THE RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

Minister: May the light of God's wisdom guide our paths.

**People: May the light of God's love warm our hearts.**

Minister: May the light of God's truth burn in our souls.

**People: May the light of God's Spirit shine in us and lead others to the light.**

Minister: Walk now in the light, for it is the light that will lead us home.

DEPART IN SILENCE

*You may leave in silence at this time or remain seated for meditation, if you choose.*

\* Congregation stands.

### THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Jody C. Wright  
Senior Minister  
Spencer Edwards  
Acolyte

Elizabeth Edwards  
Associate Minister  
Mark Gansor  
Organist  
Andrew Martin  
Torchbearer

Amy Shortt  
Minister of Music  
Spencer Bulluck  
Crucifer



### A Prayer for the Day

On this special day, Ash Wednesday,  
may my small sacrifices in fasting be a way to clear away  
the clutter in my life to see you more clearly.

May my longing for convenience and indulgence  
help me to focus my life today more outside myself.  
Let me be aware of those who suffer much more I do  
and may I be aware of them as the brothers and sisters  
you have placed in my life.

Lord, I know there is darkness within me and around me.  
Bless these days with your Word.  
Let your Light shine in the darkness.  
Help me long for that Light  
until we celebrate it at the Resurrection six weeks from now.

And most of all Lord,  
help me to honor this day with the ashes on my forehead.  
They help me remember where I have come from  
and where I am going.  
May I acknowledge to you my sins  
and my deep need for your loving forgiveness and grace.  
I pray that this Lenten season will make me so much more aware  
of how much I need your healing in my life.  
Amen.