



Ash Wednesday
February 22, 2023
Noon & 6:30 pm

Prelude

Call to Worship

One Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

All O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

One You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it. You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

All The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and contrite heart, O God you will not despise.

Hymn Just as I Am, without One Plea

Just as I am, without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou biddest me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come; I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve; because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come; I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken every barrier down; now to be thine, yes, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Readings from Scripture Joel 2:12-14

Reflection "Say You're Sorry"

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

The Service of Penitence

Confession

One I have left you behind, O God. I have ignored your voice.

My soul is a thing of tatters and tears, worn thin by life itself.

All O God, my God, have mercy on me.

One I have loved myself above all others;

My life is a thing of emptiness and despair.

All Wash away my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.

One I have closed my eyes to suffering, ignoring the needs of others.

My love is a hollow thing, limited and demanding.

All O God, Open our eyes.

One I have taken pleasure in the misfortune of others.

I allowed myself to become cynical and pessimistic.

All O Lord, soften our hearts.

One I have withheld forgiveness from those who have injured me.

My spirit is full of resentment and jealousy.

All O God, relieve us of our burdens.

One I have yearned for what is not mine and have sought gain at all costs.
I have made an art of discontent.

All O God, give us peace.

One I have trampled your creation as if it were mine to exploit.
I have squandered my gifts and wasted my potential.

All O God, restore our hope.

One Pierced by pain and cut by sorrow, I cry out to you.
Grant me the mercy I do not deserve, yet mercy I desire and need.

All O God, forgive us. Restore us. Love us.

One Holy One, I am trapped by my own actions, caught in a web of futility.
My hope fades and my faith grows weak. Hear my cries, O God.

All O God, hear our prayers and respond to our need.

Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sins.

Put a right spirit within us and restore our hope.

**For we are your children, the beloved of Christ, who proclaimed your love
to the world. Amen.**

Blessing and Imposition of Ashes *Remember that you are dust; and to dust you shall return.*

Prayer of Restoration

One The grace of God is abundantly present to change our lives.

All God lifts us above our transgressions and cleanses us from our sin.

One In Christ, we are restored to the wholeness God intends for us.

All With contrite hearts and receptive spirits, we welcome the deliverance God offers.

One As a father has compassion on his children, God has compassion on us.

All As a mother treasures her children, God also treasures us.

One Let us praise the Lord with all we have, for God is good!

All God's mercy endures forever! Amen!

Hymn Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

*Lord, who throughout these forty days, for us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.*

*As you with Satan did contend, and did the vict'ry win,
O give us strength in you to fight, in you to conquer sin.*

*And through these days of penitence, and through your Passion-tide,
Forevermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.*

*Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past,
An Easter of unending joy we may attain at last!*

Benediction

Postlude