



# ash Wednesday

February 18, 2015  
Chapel 7:00 p.m.

For he knows how we were made; he  
remembers that we are dust.

Psalm 103:14

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Joel 2:1, 12-13)

One: Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

**Many: Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, in it near –**

One: Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart,

**Many: return to me with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing.**

One: Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

**Many: Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN #196

Psalm 51

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**Single Voice** (Pastor): Creator God, you fashioned us out of dust, breathing your Spirit into us, so we might be your co-creators and sing your praise.

**Voice 1** (Kandi): Like humankind throughout the ages we give our praises to the competing god's of money, power, and status.

**Voice 2** (Audrey): In the depths of our insecurity and out of the teachings of feel-good psychology we imagine ourselves to be better than "those other people".

**V1:** We refuse to love our neighbor creating barriers of exclusion in the places we live, educate our children, and even where we worship you O God.

**V2:** We fail to understand or worse deliberately misinterpret what business and science have to tell us, discounting the weak, and profiting by others' pain.

**SV:** Not trusting in your providence, not seeing the abundance that surrounds us, we stop our ears to cries of those in need because we're afraid we won't have enough.

**V1:** We have been unfaithful stewards, O Lord.

**V2:** We live in a state of sin among a people of sin.

**V1:** Save for your grace, we would perish.

**V2:** Remember our making, Creator God; remember we are dust.

**All: Have mercy on us according to your loving kindness.**

**SV:** Breathe new life into us once more, so we might be the people you created us to be. Restore unto us the joy of your salvation that we might do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray, Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

IMPOSITION OF ASHES "You are dust and to dust you shall return" (Gen. 3:19)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Ezekiel 36:25-27)

One: Hear the promise of God: "I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you will be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my Spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances." Friends, the promises of God are true:

**Many: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

One: He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,

**Many: that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good.**

One: In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Live now as new people, free to love God and neighbor.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 103

SERMON

"Baptized Dust"

Tom Buchanan, Pastor

Hymn #2051

"I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"

Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed (traditional)

Hymnal p. 14

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:**

- L: The Lord be with you      **P: And also with you.**  
L: Lift up your hearts      **P: We lift them up to the Lord.**  
L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**P: It is right to give thanks and praise.**  
L: Holy God Almighty....ending with The Lord's Prayer.

You continue to call us through the prophets old and new to return to a covenant love and obedience with you. Therefore, with all of creation, the heavenly angels and all the saints, we lift our voices in praise:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

Even as our sin was betraying him, he sat at table with his disciples and took bread and blessed it and broke it, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves, for I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

We remember your faithfulness unto death, O Lord, and look with awe upon your tortured love, bleeding, accursed upon a tree.

We celebrate Christ's rising that released us from bondage to sin.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

PRAYER: Gracious God, . . .

Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever. Amen

BREAKING THE BREAD

Is not the bread we break a sharing in the body of Christ?

LIFTING THE CUP

Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ?

The gifts of God for the people of God.

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM AND COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

(On the approach to the table, people will stop at the font to remember their baptism. Those who imposed ashes earlier will be there to trace the sign of the cross again on their forehead with baptismal water. White cloths may be needed as well to wipe smudges from foreheads.)

Remember your baptism. You are marked as Christ's own forever.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (in unison):

**Thank you gracious God, for the gift of life. Thank you for your son Jesus Christ and his indwelling spirit among us. Help us to discipline ourselves to walk in the Way of the Lord, that we might love our neighbor as you have so lavishly loved us and serve as stewards of the creation you so lovingly made; to the glory of God the Creator, Jesus the Christ, and Holy Spirit. Amen**

\*HYMN 371 "Lift High the Cross"

\*BENEDICTION AND CHARGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 133

SERMON

Affirmation of Faith

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

BREAKING THE BREAD

Is not the bread we break a sharing in the body of Christ?

LIFTING THE CUP

Is not the cup of blessing which we bless the blood of Christ?

The gifts of God for the people of God

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

(On the approach to the altar)

Those who imposed their hands on you at baptism, and those who

renewed your baptism, and those who have since then renewed your baptism,

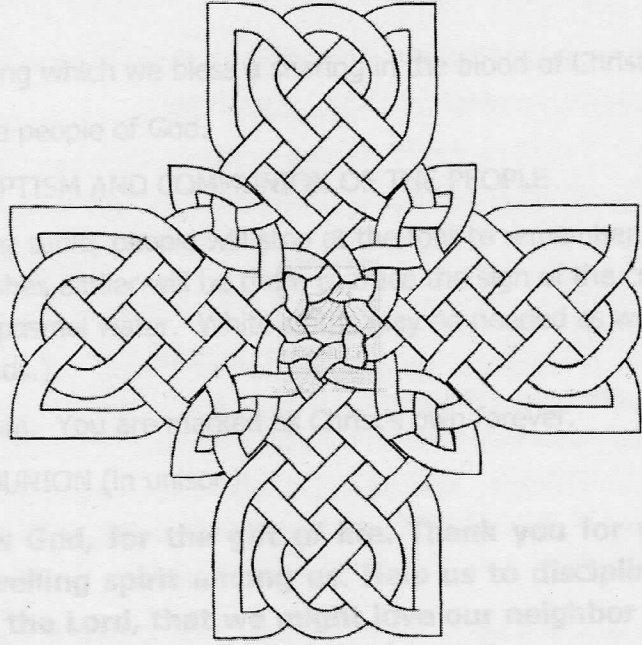
Remember your baptism

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (in unison)

Thank you gracious God, for the gift of your Son Jesus Christ and his indwelling spirit. Help us to discipline ourselves to walk in the way of the Lord, that we may love our neighbor as you have so lavishly loved us and serve as stewards of the creation you so lovingly made; to the glory of God the Creator, Jesus the Christ, and Holy Spirit. Amen

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