

Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021 ~ 7:00 PM

*Lent - an invitation to reflect, to reconsider,
to slow down, to discover.*

Invited by Jesus - to join him on the journey.

Invited to humble ourselves...

- from "Journeying to Jerusalem," Gay Williams

Gathering Music

The First Reading - Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

The Call to Worship

For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven.

**There are times when we are filled with joy and hope,
and other times when we are sad and scared.**

There are times when we laugh and times when we weep.

**There are times when we are confident and strong,
and times when we are unsure and weak.**

In every season, steadfast God, you promise to be with us.

When we are tempted to despair, return us to your promise.

*As we enter the season of Lent, we hear God's words of
faithful promise, but we also hear voices in the crowd and
false promises. God calls us back again to the steadfast
path. When we cannot calm our minds long enough to be
aware of God's presence, we are invited once more to return
to God. We are received into God's light, life, and love.*

The Second Reading - Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Gathering Song "Open Our Eyes" (*lyrics below*)

Evening Prayer -

We meet you here because we can and because we need to.

We are people in need of your grace, which shapes our forgiveness
and gives new life. We meet you here because we can and because
we need to. We need your blessing to break free from that which
holds us back and prevents us from fullness of life.

We meet you here because we can and because you invite us.

May your love kindle our rebirth, your grace love us back to life, and
your call name us as your beloved. Amen.

The Third Reading - Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Meditation - "Return"

A Song of Petition "Give Me a Clean Heart" (*lyrics below*)

A Time of Meditation -

Water for Anointing & Reaffirming our Baptisms -

*"Create a clean heart for me, O God; put a new, faithful spirit
deep inside me."*

Bread and Juice for Communion -

"The bread of life - a blessing of hope and remembrance."

"The cup of blessing - a refreshing of heart and soul."

Candles for Lighting & Prayers of the People -

God, we seek your presence in this broken world; in conflict and
fear:

hear us as we pray.

For a suffering environment and a lifestyle that can no longer be
sustained:

hear us as we pray.

For those who have no homes because of conflict and those who are
caught up in the atrocities of war:

hear us as we pray.

For those whose culture, tradition and lifestyle leave them alienated
and those who fear the things they do not want to understand:

hear us as we pray.

For those who see no need to confess and those who do not know
the joy of renewal and grace:

hear us as we pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Using words most comfortable to you...)

Return the joy of your love to us and sustain us in hope!

A Song of Assurance "...Wednesday's Ashes" (*lyrics below*)

The Benediction

The peace of Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy
Spirit be with you now and always.

And also with you!

Departing Music

Open Our Eyes

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,
to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.

Give Me a Clean Heart

Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.
Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by you.
For I'm not worthy of all those blessings.
Give me a clean heart, and I'll follow you.

"...Wednesday's Ashes"

We have failed to love our neighbors,
their offenses to forgive,
have not listened to their troubles,
nor have cared just how they live,
we are jealous, proud, impatient,
loving over much our things;
may the yielding of our failings
be our Lenten offerings.

We are hasty to judge others,
blind to proof of human need;
and our lack of understanding
demonstrates our inner greed;
we have wasted earth's resources;
want and suffering we've ignored;
come and cleanse us, then restore us;
make new hearts within us, Lord!