

Order of Worship

Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023 7:00 PM

Welcome to this time of worship, as we gather in the name of Jesus Christ.

Prelude

O God, Thou Faithful God

Johannes Brahms

Welcome

***Greeting**

Leader: We gather together at the edge of a new season.

People: We stand together on the cusp of something new.

Leader: Will we wade into self-reflection?

People: Will we invite honesty to dance?

Leader: Will we listen for God's invitation?

People: Will we seek deeper faith?

Leader: What kind of fast do we choose? What kind of faith will we build?

People: We gather together at the edge of a new season.

Leader: Listen, God is speaking.

***Hymn**

O God of Love the Fast You Choose

Call to Confession

Leader: Merciful God,

How many times in a day could we choose love?

People: How many times could we choose justice?

Leader: How many times could we speak kindly to ourselves?

People: How many times could we offer grace?

Leader: How many times, God? And how often do we miss it?

People: Forgive us for choosing the path you did not travel.

Leader: Forgive us for using the world's measure of goodness, instead of yours.

**People: Return our hearts to you, and guide us continually,
even in the parched places.**

Leader: With gratitude we pray,

People: Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Rev. Nilse Furtado-Gilliam

Scripture

Isaiah 58:1-12

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Seeking:

Rev. Tracy McNeil Wines

Is this the fast that I choose?

***Hymn**

Change My Heart, O God

TWFS 2152

Ash Wednesday Litany

Leader: Eternal God, Incarnate Word, Abiding Spirit,

People: have mercy on us.

Leader: For resisting your grace and refusing your blessings,
for holding back from proclaiming our faith in you,

People: forgive us, Lord.

Leader: For failing to forgive as we have been forgiven,
for judging others and bearing grudges,

People: forgive us, Lord.

Leader: For damaging this earth and exploiting its creatures,
for neglecting and wasting the gifts you have given us,

People: forgive us, Lord.

Leader: For tolerating oppression, injustice, and wrong,
for keeping silent when we should have spoken up,

People: forgive us, Lord.

Leader: For turning away when others have offered us love,
for closing our hearts when others have needed compassion,

People: forgive us, Lord.

Leader: For all we have done unkindly, unjustly and dishonestly,
for our careless speech and hurtful words,

People: forgive us, Lord.

**All: Most merciful God,
we have sinned against you in thought, word,
and deed, and in what we have failed to do.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.**

Forgive us.

**Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Leader: With our hearts turned to God in repentance,
let us receive God's mercy, take hold of our forgiveness,
and, in the power of the Holy Spirit, walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

Rev. Wines

Every year at Easter we celebrate with joy our redemption and renewal through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The season of Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to make room in our lives for the Spirit of God to renew us in this mystery. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and our need for the love and forgiveness shown to us in Jesus Christ.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a Holy Lent, by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by practicing works of love, and by reading and reflecting on God's Holy Word. Let us begin our Lenten journey together in prayer, and seeking the forgiveness and new life that is promised to us in Christ Jesus. *(silent prayer)*

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 we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Imposition of the Ashes

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.
Repent, and believe the gospel.

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses**

as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil,
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.

***Hymn**

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

UMH 269

Benediction

Rev. Wines

Leader: As you leave this place,
may God bless you with seeking.
Seek out the hungry.
Seek the weary.
Seek the good in every person you pass.
Seek out the hopeful.
Seek the faithful.
Seek God in each of us.
As you seek and as you wonder,
may you find what you are looking for.
In the name of our loving God,
who is always seeking us,
go now in peace.

People: Amen.

Closing prayer Written by John van de Laar and posted on Sacredise.com.