



ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

PRELUDE

WELCOME

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

O God, it wasn't supposed to be this way. When we were young, we had so much hope. Soon, our griefs became too numerous to name. Sometimes we confess that we lost hope and our hearts are heavy with mourning. Our eyes are wet with tears. We weep for our own hurts, but our hearts melt most of all for the ones we love. It is anguish to see our loved ones in pain. Our sins drove the spikes into your hands and caused pain. Our iniquities pierced your side. Our transgressions crowned you with thorns. Have mercy on us, God, according to your steadfast love. According to your abundant mercy, blot out our wrongs. We repent that we have sinned against God and done what is evil. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new spirit within us. The light of God shall rise in the darkness! The blackest night will become like the blazing light of the noonday sun! The sacrifice acceptable to God is a humble spirit. God will not despise a heart that truly repents. Amen. (Rev. Rebecca Holland)

HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This
Stephanie Yonkers, soloist

Vs. 1 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.

Vs. 2 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 life to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, to lay aside his crown for my soul.

Vs. 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme I will sing, I will sing; while millions join the theme I will sing.

NEW TESTAMENT *1 Corinthians 15:35-44 & 47-52*

MEDITATION *Made from Dust*

ABOUT ASHES

We are all first marked with the cross using water at our baptisms. At that time to be marked with the cross is a wonderful thing. We are identified as the beloved children of God. On Ash Wednesday we are marked with the cross using ashes and the words, “remember you are dust.” The ashes and words remind us that we are not so wonderful. In fact, we are all sinners. But a cross reminding us that God loves and forgives us, sinners though we be.

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 that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ.
Pastoral Prayer
The Lord’s Prayer

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

HYMN *Sunday’s Palms Are Wednesday’s Ashes*

Vs. 1 Sunday’s palms are Wednesday’s ashes as another Lent begins; thus we kneel before our Maker in contrition for our sins. We have marred baptismal pledges, in rebellion gone astray; now, returning, seek forgiveness; grant us pardon, God, this day!

Vs. 2. We have failed to love our neighbors, their offences 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.

Vs. 3. 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!

Rev. Eun-Hye Choi
BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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*Offering baskets are in the back of the sanctuary.*

*Pastor Eun-Hye Choi*



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