



Ash Wednesday

February 26, 2020

7:00 pm

Church of The Cross

475 West Higgins Road Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

(847) 885-1199

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Rev. Julie Peterson

People of God—listen to the trumpet’s call!

We come from near and far to kneel before the Holy One.

Children of God—listen to the voice of your Creator!

**We return to God with open hearts and minds
ready to be transformed.**

Beloved of God—listen to the good news!

**The Lord is merciful and kind, full of faithful love
and ready to forgive. Let us worship God!**

*OPENING HYMN #614

“Great Are you, Lord”

RESPONSIVE EVENING PRAYER²

Holy One, you keep us waiting... for you, the God of all time, wants us to wait for the right time in which to discover who we are, where we must go, who will be with us, and what we must do.

So thank you Holy One... for the waiting time.

You keep us looking... for you, the God of all space, wants us to look in the right and wrong places for signs of hope, for people who are hopeless, for visions of a better world which will appear among the disappointments of the world we know.

So thank you Holy One... for the looking time.

You keep us loving... for you, the God whose name is love, wants us to be like you—to love the loveless and the unloved and the unlovely; to love without jealousy or design or threat; and, most of all, to love ourselves.

So thank you Holy One... for the loving time.

And in all this, you keep us... through hard questions with no easy answers, through failing where we hoped to succeed and making an impact when we thought we were useless, through the patience and encouragement and love of others, and through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, you keep us.

**So thank you Holy One... for the keeping time of
now and forever. In the name of Jesus we pray...**

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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

TAIZÉ SONG (*sing 3x*) "Wait for the Lord"

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

WORDS and MUSIC: Taizé Community
Words and Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (Admin. GIA Publications)

CALL TO CONFESSION

George Rogers

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**Wash me through and through from my
wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

Sung Refrain

Lord, I call to you; O hear my cry.

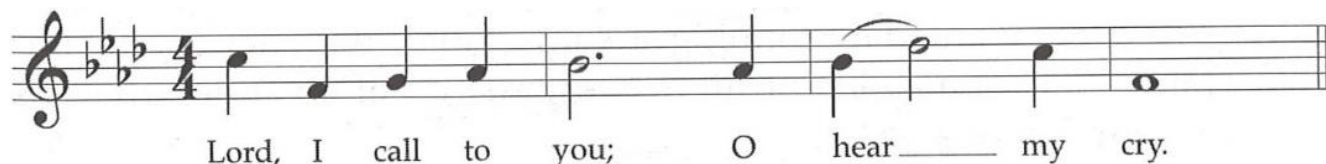
For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.

Sung Refrain



Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

Sung Refrain (see above)

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your holy spirit from me.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain with your bountiful Spirit.**

Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and
my tongue will shall sing of your righteousness.**

Sung Refrain (see above)

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

For you take no delight in sacrifice; if I would give it.

You are not pleased with burnt offering.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;

a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

Sung Refrain (see above)

A TIME OF SILENCE

George Rogers

Use this time to write a confession to God on the flash paper in your bulletin. Later you will nail this piece of flash paper to the cross.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Julie

TAIZÉ SONG²

“God to Enfold You”

(sing 2x)

God to en - fold you, Christ to up - hold you,
 Spi - rit to keep you in hea - ven's sight; so may God grace you,
 heal and em - brace you, lead you through dark - ness in - to the light.

Words & music by John L. Bell © 1995 WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow G51 3UU, Scotland

SCRIPTURE READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

HYMN # 442, vs 1, 3-4 “Just as I am, without One Plea”

~~ PRESENTING OURSELVES TO GOD ~~

THE LORD’S SUPPER

RESPONSIVE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

A follower of Jesus once wrote: ‘Think of what kind of people you are whom God has called: not many wise by human standards, not many powerful or of noble birth. Yet to shame the wise, God has chosen what the world counts foolish; and to shame the strong, God has chosen what the world counts weak.’

It is not for our virtue that we are here. It is not for who we are that we are called to this table. It is only for one reason—God wants us here.

So we come, leaving behind the baggage of our self-importance or the burden of our self-loathing. How we feel, who we are, what we have done, at this moment does not matter.

There is a greater cause, there is a stronger voice. It belongs to Jesus who, in bread and wine, says, “I am here... for you.”

Tonight we will journey to the cross... Tonight we remember—even in the darkest moments, God offers the Light of Life.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us share this journey together.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING²

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts to God.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, yes, it is right to give you thanks and praise for the life you lived among us, speaking our language, learning our ways, sitting at our tables, listening to our complaints and never giving up on us, never giving up on us.

TAIZÉ SONG NO. 544 (*sing 1x*) **“Bless the Lord”**

Yes, it is right to give you thanks and praise for never compromising the truth by which you lived, for refusing to be swayed by popular opinion, for confronting institutionalized prejudice and never selling your soul, never selling your soul.

TAIZÉ SONG NO. 544 (*sing 1x*) **“Bless the Lord”**

Yes, it is right to give you thanks and praise for loving the unlovable, touching the untouchable, forgiving the unforgivable, recognizing the gold beneath the dross, the potential beneath the pain, and never taking an easier path, never taking an easier path.

TAIZÉ SONG NO. 544 (*sing 1x*) **“Bless the Lord”**

Yes, it is right to give you thanks and praise for in the face of our small-mindedness you, Jesus, have shown us God and God’s kingdom in fascinating beauty and converting power. So we gladly celebrate your life, as in concert with the church in heaven and earth we join the song of your ending praise.

HYMN #1, vs1 **“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!”**

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!

Oh Holy Jesus... Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD & LIFTING THE CUP

~~ THE TIME TO COME FORWARD ~~

OUR PETITIONS FOR MERCY NAILED TO THE CROSS

Those who desire to nail their confession on the cross will be provided the necessary tools and assistance if needed. These confessions are between you and God alone. Trust God. Know the prayer of your heart, offered in humility and penitence, is the most honest act of worship one can offer. Lean on our Lord, who, at the time of his crucifixion proclaimed, “Father, forgive them...”

IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

Those who desire may stop to receive the imposition of ashes. These ashes are symbolic of our mortality and penitence—a reminder that it is only through God’s gracious gift of Jesus Christ that we are given everlasting life.

COMMUNING TOGETHER

Communion is open to all who are baptized from every Christian faith. Communion is served by Intinction. Please come forward by way of the center aisle, take a piece of bread and dip it in the cup of juice, partake of it, and then return by the side aisles to your seat. A server will bring communion to those less able to come forward. The bread is gluten/dairy free.

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lead us, O God, by the power of your Spirit to live as the Lord requires: to do justice, to love kindness, and walk humbly with you, our God. Take these prayers of our hearts and heal us, for we seek to be faithful in this journey of life. Use your refiner’s fire to purify our hearts and our lives.

(pause for the lighting of the confessions nailed to the cross)

Lord, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus Christ until this mortal life is ended, and all that is earthly returns to dust. Give us strength to serve you faithfully until the promised day of resurrection, when, with the redeemed of all the ages, we will feast with you at your table in glory. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

*DEDICATION OF OFFERING

George Rogers

*CLOSING HYMN #833 “O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

¹Call to Worship 53.1, © 2019 Office of Theology and Worship Presbyterian Church
(U.S.A.) pg60

²A Wee Worship Book, Wild Good Publications, a division of the Iona Community,
Glasgow, Scotland, pg57-58, 118-119

BEING MORTAL: END OF LIFE PREPARATIONS

An educational Lenten series is coming our way!

Lent is a time when we reflect on our humanity as it relates to the life-giving promise of Jesus our Lord and Savior. We know our time on earth is limited and yet we often put off planning for the reality of our own life's earthly ending. On each of the last four Sundays in March we will be holding seminars to help us prepare for the ultimate reality of being mortal. These seminars will run from approximately 11:45am – 1:15pm. This is the schedule of presenters and topics:



March 8 – Ahlgrim & Sons Funeral and Cremation Services will provide information on burial, cremation, costs, etc.

March 15 – Rev. Magdalena Garcia of VITAS Healthcare will teach us about hospice and palliative care services.

March 22 – Attorney Bill Kelley will discuss necessary legal documents for powers of attorney, living wills, and more.

March 29 – Pastor Julie will walk us through preparation for our own funeral or memorial service.

Please invite friends, family and neighbors to join us in these discussions. These educational events are open to the public.

PLEASE RSVP online so we can prepare our materials!!!

Schedule for 2020 Lent services:

- **Palm Sunday Service**
5 April @ 10 am
- **Maundy Thursday**
9 April @ 7 pm
- **Easter Sunday Service**
12 April @ 10 am



You are invited to Church of the Cross's
Ladies Tea on March 14th @ 11:30 am.
Our theme this year is "The Language of Flowers"
Please rsvp online or in the lounge.

Church of the Cross Anniversary

1960 **60** 2020
YEARS



We are celebrating Church of the Cross's 60th Anniversary on Sunday, May 31st. Please spread the word with former members you are still in contact with. Ask them to call the church office to let us know they are interested in having their names added to the event contact list. OR, point them to the website where they can add their names to the event contact list. Click on the EVENTS tab, scroll down to the "60 YEARS" link to click and submit contact information. **Thank you for getting the word out!!**

CALENDAR

For the week of February 23rd

Sunday, February 23

9:00 am Sunday School for All
10:00 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hour & Fellowship

Wednesday, February 26

12 noon Lunch with pastor
1:30 pm Friendship Village Devotions
6:00 pm Agape Supper
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, February 27

9:00 am Café Hours with Pastor Julie
7:00 pm Choir practice

Sunday, March 1

9:00 am Sunday School for All
10:00 am Worship & Communion
Congregational Meeting
11:30 am Coffee Hour & Fellowship

March

3 Tuesday	4 Wednesday	5 Thursday	6 Friday	7 Saturday	8 Sunday
7:00 pm - Deacons meeting	NO Noon Lunch study group	9:00 am - Café hours with Pastor Julie 7:00 pm - Choir			9:00 am - Sunday School for All 10:00 am - Worship & Communion 11:00 am - Coffee Hour & Fellowship

Pastor Julie is on study leave March 2-4 – Call any Deacon or Elder if you have a pastoral care emergency.

WORSHIP RESOURCE SCHEDULE

Date	February 26	March 1	March 8	March 15
	Ash Wednesday	1 st Sunday in Lent	2 nd Sunday in Lent	3 rd Sunday in Lent
Worship Leader	George Rogers	K Groenewold	C Walker	J Buchholz
Disciple on Duty		Jim Vakoc		
Usher/Greeter		Buchholz	Amos	Keppel
Counter			Jane Lesch	
Communion Set Up	Chris Lorentz	Chris Lorentz		
Communion Servers	George Rogers	K Groenewold		
	Chris Lorentz	Pastor Julie		
	Pastor Julie			
Coffee Hour	Agape Supper		George Rogers	Judie T