



Ash Wednesday

March 2, 2022

7:00 pm

Church of The Cross

475 West Higgins Road Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

(847) 885-1199

PRELUDE

“What Wondrous Love” *arr James E Clemens*

Marie R.

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Rev. Julie Peterson

We despise our fragility.

God is our hope in life and in death.

We are terrified by shapeless threat.

In Christ we are held, in life and in death.

God chooses redemption and releases the bonds of fear.

May God prepare our hearts and minds to be renewed in Christ.

OPENING HYMN

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

GTG #166

EVENING PRAYER²

The Cost of a Changing Day

Judie T.

Ever-present God: Everything is in Your hands. You ordained everything; ordered everything. You made all ages a preparation for the coming of your Son. You called Your people out of Egypt to cradle Him. Your prophets foretold Him, Son of David, infant of Mary.

And when the time was ripe, He came: wielding the hammer, treading the winepress, tramping the earth, contradicting the smooth, giving hope to the sinners, redeeming the world.

Ever-present God: Everything is still in Your hands. Out of eternity You called each one of us into Your Church. By the spirit of prophecy, You have awakened our souls to expectancy.

By most strange choosing it is we You have named to redeem the world by faith in You, continuing Your incarnation. Heavenly Father: we acknowledge our unworthiness to be that continuing incarnation.

We sing of His birth in a stable, but we hardly accept His presence in so rancid a place. We rejoice that Shepherds acclaim Him at their work, but we don't make our work the sort of place to meet Him. We acknowledge His welcome by the wise men who had to change direction to find Him, but we want to be wise without changing direction. We are content to be humbled, if we can keep our pride. We are ready for the unexpected story, so long as we can continue in our own expected way. We don't want to be born again when are old: how can we possibly be born again when we are old? Yet...

Take us, O God, and remake us. Give us boldness to enter through the veil that is His flesh: knowing in fullness of faith that our hearts are cleansed from an evil conscience: so that we may consider one another, and provoke one another to good works, and open our minds and hearts to the meaning and the cost of a changing day.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

TAIZÉ SONG

“Wait for the Lord” (*sing 2x*)

GTG #90

CALL TO CONFESSION

Judie T.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹

Holy God, how quickly we defend ourselves. Our minds are full of excuses, justification, and denial. The sense of threat distances us from one another and hardens our hearts. Humble us. Hold us. Heal us. Forgive us, O God, our Creator and Sustainer. Our hope and restoration depend on you alone.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Julie

RESPONDING TO GRACE

“Holy, Holy, Holy” (*sing 2x*)

GTG # 595

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Judie T.

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

Thanks be to God!

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Pastor Julie

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

Thanks be to God!

EVENING MEDITATION

Pastor Julie

HYMN

“Just As I Am” (*vs1-2,4*)

GTG # 442

THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE³

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING³

Holy God, we are a people of journey, and we begin this journey by recognize our own humanity. This Table proclaims to us that while death will indeed one day overtake our bodies, God offers life to all who believe in Jesus Christ.

On our bodies we bear the marks of sin and death. But on our hearts, we bear the marks of Jesus Christ—our Redeemer and our lord. We will kick up the dust of our mortality as we walk with Jesus to the cross. But as we are marked on our foreheads tonight with the mark of death, we remember our heart bears the marks of a love which cannot be comprehended, cannot be exhausted, cannot be limited, loves us until the end.

On the night in which Jesus was betrayed, he took bread and gave thanks to God, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “*Take eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.*” When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to God, gave it to his disciples, and said: “*Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for your and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.*”

We remember tonight that the way to life is through death. It is in the life and love of Christ that we come to this Table. The ashes remind us that we all come from dust and to dust these bodies will return.

This Table proclaims to us God’s offer of life to all who believe in Jesus Christ.

Therefore, this Table—God’s table—is open to for all who seek to know life in Jesus Christ. Therefore, in remembrance of God’s mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us. Amen and Amen.

Come, receive the manna for our journey as we prepare to enter into the wilderness of Lent.

COMMUNING TOGETHER

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION¹

Judie T.

Giving God, Living Lord, you have fed us with your body. You have poured out your life so we might live. We thank you, for we have tasted your goodness in this meal. Fed, we are strengthened; filled, we are renewed to share the abundance of your love with a hungry world. Amen.

THE IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

Those who wish may come forward to receive the imposition of ashes.

UNISON PRAYER

Judie T.

God of our lives, out of the dust of creation You have formed us and given us life. You have given us the promises you keep and the good news You share, the confidences you protected and the forgetting of forgiven sin. You have given us Your very self in the quiet pauses and in a melodic song, in the special moments and in the stuttered prayer, in the lingering doubt and the dry days of our spirits.

You give us the beauty of the earth, the fullness of four seasons and the ugliness of a wooden cross, the emptiness of a garden tomb and the assurance there is far more to come beyond our earthly vision.

In the company of Your people, Redeeming God, we receive these ashes as a sign of our repentance and earthly death. We receive these ashes as a gift of Your grace in Jesus Christ, through whom we are granted life forever with You. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”

GTG #833

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

“How Firm a Foundation” *arr James E Clemens*

Marie R.

¹Call to Worship 55.1C, © 2022 Office of Theology and Worship Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), pg2

²The Whole Earth Shall Cry Glory, Wild Goose Publications, a division of the Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland, pg57-58, 118-119

³Michelle Henrichs, Come to the Table: Communion Liturgies of invitation to Celebrate and Experience the Love of God. © 2020 Michelle Henrichs, life in the Labyrinth LLC. pg34-35