

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 14, 2023 7:00pm

Please enter and remain in silence in preparation for worship

Prelude Are Ye Able? H. S. Mason

* **Processional Hymn #292** *What Wondrous Love Is This?*
WONDROUS LOVE

* **Greeting** Rev. Beth Orrell
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.
Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
God's mercy endures for ever.

* **Opening Prayer** Rev. Beth Orrell
O God, Maker of everything and judge of all that you have made, from the dust of the earth you have formed us, and from the dust of death you would raise us up. By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit, That we may repent of our sins and lead lives worthy of your calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Musical Meditation *Caprice no.6 in E minor* Joseph Dall'abaco

Scripture: Mark 1:9-13 Rev. Beth Orrell
In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased." The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to him.

Pastoral Reflection *Lenten Questions* Dr. Michael Brown

Responsive Reading: Psalm 51 (p. 785-786) Kim Harvey

Anthem *Create In Me A Clean Heart* Mark Patterson
*Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me, and cast me not from your presence, I pray.
Restore to me all the joy of salvation; let your spirit uphold me.*

*Have mercy on me, O God of love. Take away all my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity, O Lord. Cleanse me from all of my sin. Lord, now I give you my spirit.
Lord, now I give you my heart.
Amen.*

Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

Dr. Michael Brown

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: the early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation.

During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church.

In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

To make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel (bow) before our Creator and Redeemer.

A brief silence is kept, the congregation kneeling or bowed.

Thanksgiving Over the Ashes

Dr. Michael Brown

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 our Savior. Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

Cello Suite no. 2 in D minor

J.S. Bach

Closing Hymn#298 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (all verses)

HAMBURG

Benediction

Dr. Michael Brown

Please depart in silence during the bell toll.

The Gospel of Mark Study Booklets with reading plan are available in the narthex of the sanctuary.



WORSHIP LEADERS

Senior Pastor: Dr. Michael Brown

Liturgist: Rev. Beth Orrell, Kim Harvey

Acolytes: Leah Heitman, Alica Cagle, James Campbell, Claire Love, and Mary Ines Johnson

Traditional Worship Arts Director: Charli Mills

Organist/Accompanist: Mike Hendrix

Guest Musicians: Gustavo Antoniacomi, cello

