

# Service for the Lord's Day

*Ash Wednesday Service*

February 14, 2018

6:00 P.M.

Welcome/Announcements/Explanation and Purpose of Service

Rev. Taylor Young

*We Assemble in God's Name*

Prelude: Ethebet Gibson

Greeting: Rev. Taylor Young

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. Taylor Young

Song of Praise: "Amazing Grace My Chains are Gone" Choir

*We Prepare to Hear the Written Word*

Prayer of Illumination: Rev. Taylor Young

Song of Illumination "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" Choir

*We Hear the Word*

(Please open your hymnbooks to page 445 in preparation for the choral responses after each scripture.)

Old Testament Reading: Joel 2: 12-17 Rev. Taylor Young

Song: "Just As I Am, without One Plea" (verses 1 & 2) No. 445

Reading from the Epistles: Rev. Rick Koyama  
2 Corinthians 5: 20b – 6: 10

Song: "Just As I Am, without One Plea" (verse 3) No. 445

Reading of the Psalm Psalm 51  
Paul Chall-Hutchinson, Colby Jones, Tyler Sundstrom

Song: "Just As I Am, without one Plea" (verses 4 & 5) No. 445

(The Choir will recess at this time while the musician continues to play)

Gospel Reading Rev. John Routzahn

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

Song: "Give Me Jesus" Cheryl Routzahn

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Stephen Louder  
"Calm in Christ and Carry On"  
Joel 2:1-2

*We Confess Our Sin*

Call to Confession: Meghan Routzahn, Abby and Kyleigh Koyama  
"Nothing But the Blood"

Prayer of Confession Rev. Paula Louder

Let us in silence call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

(Silence)

Lord, we have not loved you with all our heart, and soul, and mind,  
and strength.  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.  
Lord have mercy.

We have been deaf to your call to serve.  
We have been unfaithful, proud, and hypocritical.  
Christ have mercy.

We have been self-centered, and have taken advantage of others.  
Lord have mercy.

We have been envious of those more fortunate than ourselves.  
Christ have mercy.

We have loved worldly goods and comforts too much.  
We have been dishonest in daily life and work.  
Lord have mercy.

We have neglected prayer and worship, and have failed to commend  
the faith that is in us.  
Christ have mercy.

We have been blind to human need and suffering, and indifferent to  
injustice and cruelty.  
Lord have mercy.

We have thought uncharitably about others, and we have been  
prejudiced towards those who differ from us.  
Christ have mercy.

We have wasted and polluted your creation, and lacked concern for  
those who come after us.

Lord have mercy.

Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said,  
in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done.  
We have sinned in ignorance:  
we have sinned in weakness:  
we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry.  
We repent and turn to you.  
Forgive us, for our Savior Christ's sake,  
and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.

*We Receive the Sign of Repentance*

*Those who desire to receive ashes will come forward at this time.*

Prayer and Response of Assurance Rev. Dr. Stephen Louder

Loving God,  
you create us from the dust of the earth;  
may these ashes be for us a sign  
of our penitence and our mortality,  
and a reminder that only by the cross  
do we receive eternal life  
in Jesus Christ our Savior.  
Amen.

People:

May God, who has forgiven us now make us strong for these days  
ahead. May Jesus lead us, and may we be found faithful to follow.

Pastor:

And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us  
and remain with us always!

People: AMEN!

Pastor: Go in peace, to love and serve God and your neighbor.

People: Thanks be to God!

You are dismissed at this time.

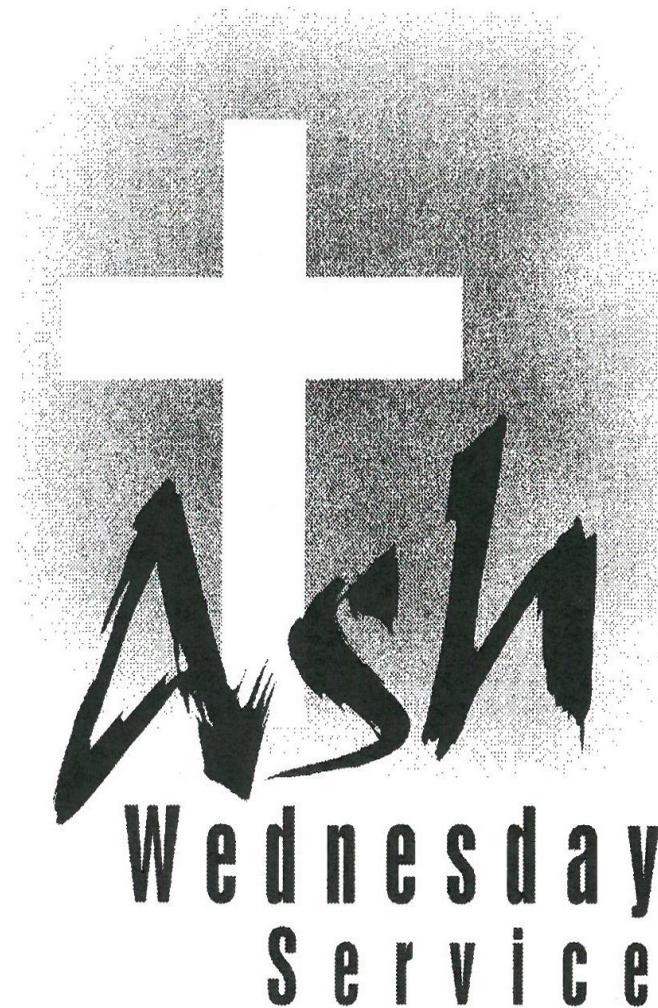
## Why Ash Wednesday?

Traditionally, the Christian church has observed the seven weeks before Easter as a time of penitence and spiritual self-examination.

Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, derives its name from the ancient practice of marking the foreheads of worshipers with ashes from the unused palm branches of the previous year. Ashes historically have had a dual significance.

First, they are Old Testament symbols of sadness and humility. Job, in the midst of all his troubles, cried out to God from the ash heap.

The second symbolic meaning of ashes is as a reminder of our mortality. Each of us faces the inevitability of physical death. Our bodies and material possessions eventually will turn to dust and ashes. This is a reminder that we dare not trust in things that crumble. But Lent does not leave us on the ash heap. It begins with Ash Wednesday, but ends with Easter. And Easter proclaims that, through Christ, God resurrects us from our dust and ashes, makes us new creatures and brings life out of death!



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