



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
7:00 P.M.
MARCH 1, 2017**

***Call to Worship**

One: We come to worship God
as the Lenten season begins,
aware of our frailty and our failings.

**All: We come seeking God's mercy,
acknowledging our mortality.**

One: Having received the waters of baptism,
we are marked now with ashes.

**All: The treasures of this earth do not last;
our treasure is in heaven,
our heart's true home.**

***Prayer of the Day (Unison)**

**God of our salvation,
we long to be reconciled to you.
Help us to clear away any obstacle
that prevents us
from accepting the grace of Christ.**

**No matter what we face in this life,
increase in us knowledge and patience,
kindness and holiness of spirit,
genuine love and truthful speech,
so that, by the power of God at work in us,
we may live even as we are dying
and rejoice even in our sorrows.**

**Though it may seem that we have nothing,
if we are reconciled to you,
we possess everything,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***Hymn#166** *“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”*

Scripture Reading: Psalm 51.1-12

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

Meditation

Rev. Dr. April Davis Campbell

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Litany of Confession

One: Glorious God,
your thoughts are not our thoughts,
neither are your ways our ways.
You look at the ugliest soul and see,
still within, one of your beloved children.

**All: We scan the finest of our neighbors,
anxious to find the flaw.**

One: You view time in the context of eternity,
and so find a place for waiting, for yearning,
even for suffering, even for dying.

**All: We demand instant results;
and look for tomorrow before savoring today.**

One: You know that only one who suffers
can ultimately save,
that is why you walk the way of the cross.

**All: We fear that vulnerability
which defies our power;
that is why we allow for crucifixion.**

One: Your thoughts are not our thoughts,

All: Neither are your ways our ways.

One: And yet we know that your way leads to life
abundant, life eternal, while,
left to our own devices,
our ways lead to heartache,
destruction, and pain.

But we are here, not to have our worst confirmed,
but to have our best liberated. So we pray,

**All: Forgive in us what has gone wrong,
Repair in us what is wasted,
Reveal in us what is good.**

One: And nourish us with better food
than we could ever purchase:
your Word, your love, your inspiration,
your daily bread for our life's journey,
in the company of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

Hymn#792 *“There is a Balm in Gilead”*

Imposition of Ashes

One: Let us pray.

**All: Almighty God,
you have created us out of the dust of the earth.**

May these ashes be to us

**a sign of our mortality and penitence,
so we may remember that only by your gracious
gift are we given everlasting life;**

through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

**[Those who desire may come forward for the
imposition of ashes]**

One: Accomplish in us, O God,
the work of your salvation,

All: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

One: By the cross and passion of our Savior,

**All: bring us with all your saints
to the joy of Christ's resurrection.**

***Hymn#537** *“When at This Table”*

The Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy...

... Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours,
almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church,
now and forever.

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.

The Words of Institution

Distribution of the Bread and the Cup

Prayer following the Meal

**God of compassion,
through your Son Jesus Christ
you reconciled your people to yourself.
Following his example of prayer and fasting,
may we obey you with willing hearts
and serve one another in holy love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***Benediction**

The congregation departs in silence to observe a Holy Lent.

*About Communion this evening: All are invited to come forward, **to sit down at the table** and to be fed by our risen Lord, just as those disciples this night so long ago gathered round the table with Jesus to be fed one last time before his death. Please serve the person who sits next to you, then allow them to serve you.*

The ashes we are using are from last year's palms.