



Ash Wednesday Evening Service
With
Imposition of Ashes

17th February 2021

Call to worship:

We come, trusting in God's mercy and love,
longing to know and to learn more about God's ways.

**We come, to be guided in the ways of God's truth—
to experience the joy of God's salvation.**

We come, at the beginning of our Lenten journey,
aware of God's steadfast love helping us to overcome
the trials and temptations which can descend on us at any time.

**Lead us, O God, to do what is right in your eyes
and teach us to follow the humble way of Christ,
your beloved Son, our crucified and risen Lord.**

(based on Psalm 25:1-10)

Hymn: Forty Days and Forty Nights

Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted and yet undefiled.

Burning heat throughout the day,
bitter cold when light had fled;
prowling beasts around your way,
stones your pillow, earth your bed.

Shall not we your trials share,
learn your discipline of will;
and with you by fast and prayer
wrestle with the powers of hell?

So if Satan, pressing hard,
soul and body would destroy:
Christ who conquered, be our guard;
give to us the victor's joy.

Saviour, may we hear your voice
keep us constant at your side;
and with you we shall rejoice
at the eternal Eastertide.

Encouragement to observe Lent:

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's
passion and resurrection and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting.
By carefully keeping these days, Christians take to heart the call to repentance
and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith
and in devotion to our Lord.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent,
by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading
and meditating on God's holy word.

Collect

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

**Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:
create and make in us new and contrite hearts
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12 ~ Rev'd Steve and Rev'd Rachel

Hymn: Purify my Heart

Purify my heart
Let me be as gold and precious silver
Purify my heart
Let me be as gold, pure gold

*Refiner's fire,
My heart's one desire
Is to be holy
Set apart for You, Lord
I choose to be holy
Set apart for You, my Master
Ready to do Your will*

Purify my heart
Cleanse me from within
And make me holy
Purify my heart
Cleanse me from my sin, deep within

*Refiner's fire
My heart's one desire
Is to be holy
Set apart for You, Lord
I choose to be holy
Set apart for You, my Master
Ready to do Your will x 2*

Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 ~ Rev'd Rachel

Sermon: Rev'd Steve

Confession:

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God,
though we have rebelled against him.
Let us then renounce our wilfulness and ask his mercy
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Forgiving Lord,
we have fallen short time and time again.
You have given us your word, both in scripture and in Son,
you have promised us your presence, both in Spirit and in community,
and you have graced us with your kingdom, both in teaching and in service.
Even so, we neglect, ignore, and reject your purposes for us.
We do not love what you love.
We do not embrace what you embrace.
We do not defend what you have called us to defend.
Have mercy on us, O God of all ages past and all hope for years to come.
Forgive us for what we do and what we fail to do.
And with your gifts, promises, and grace, continue working in our lives
that we might receive full life in Jesus Christ, now and forevermore. **Amen.**

Absolution:

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Imposition off Ashes: Rev'd Steve

Dear friends in Christ,
I invite you to receive these ashes
as a sign of the spirit of penitence
with which we shall keep this season of Lent.

God our Father,
you create us from the dust of the earth:
grant that these ashes may be for us
a sign of our penitence
and a symbol of our mortality;
for it is by your grace alone
that we receive eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

We remember that we are dust, and to dust we shall return.
Let us turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

Lord enrich us with your grace,
nourish us with your blessing;
Lord defend us in times of trouble and keep us from all evil;
Lord accept our prayers,
and absolve us from our offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

The Peace:

Being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Please find a creative way to offer one another a sign of the peace!

Prayers: Adam Winn

A time of Silence**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Hymn: Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways:
re clothe us in our rightful mind;
in purer lives your service find,
in deeper reverence praise,
in deeper reverence praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord
let us, like them, obey his word:
'Rise up and follow me,
rise up and follow me!'

Drop your still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace,
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire,
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still small voice of calm,
O still small voice of calm!

The Blessing:

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**