

Service for Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2012

7:30 p.m.

Words of Welcome

Prelude

“Do Not Despair, O Little Flock”

arr. Behnke

Silent Reflection

Call to Worship

God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.

God's love endures forever.

God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea.**

Prayer of the Day

**Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins
of all who turn to you. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that truly
repenting of our sins, and acknowledging our brokenness, we may obtain
from you, the God of mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever. Amen.**

* Hymn 544 (PH)

“Day is Done”

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 (OT, p. 846)

Second Lesson: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 (NT, p. 5)

Anthem

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”

Thomas Pearce

Third Lesson: Psalm 51 (OT, p. 520)

Meditation: “Telling the Truth”

Rev. Carter

Silent Reflection

Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline

Litany of Penitence

**Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and to the
whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by
our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by
what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness:
the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

we confess to you, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,

we confess to you, O God.

Our anger at our own frustration
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

we confess to you, O God.

Our love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

we confess to you, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship,
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

we confess to you, O God.

Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of
human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

accept our repentance, O God.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,
and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

accept our repentance, O God.

For our waste and pollution of your creation
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

accept our repentance, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us

Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

Imposition of Ashes

***Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.
May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence,
and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.***

All are welcome to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes.

Concluding Prayer

***Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation, that we may show forth
your glory in the world. 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.***

* Hymn 129 (*Sing*) “Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights” (verses 1-4)

* Blessing and Charge 1 Thessalonians 5:23

May the God of peace make you holy in every way and keep your whole being -
spirit, soul, and body - free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“The Glory of These Forty Days”

arr. Sedio

Those wishing to make an offering may do so as they depart the sanctuary.