

# ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 17, 2021

*"Dust you are, and to dust you will return." – Genesis 3:19*

## WELCOME

### ORGAN/PIANO PRELUDE

Toni DiCapua, Mollie Wakeman

"Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days"

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Ben Ball

Leader: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice.

**Congregation: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his Word I put my hope.**

Leader: My soul waits for the Lord, more than those who watch for the morning.

**Congregation: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his Word I put my hope.**

Leader: Come, let us worship God.

\* **OPENING HYMN** "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" (see words on next page) no. 92

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Bob Kraut

**Loving God, we confess that we have been slow to learn from you, and we have failed to obey you. Forgive us for not being your faithful followers. Create in us a clean heart, O God. Hear us now as we silently confess our sins...**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: We are dust, and to dust we shall return.

**Congregation: Though our bodies be destroyed, yet in flesh we shall see God!**

Leader: We present ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God.

**Congregation: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
Thanks be to God!**

### ANTHEM

"For Things That I Do Wrong, O Lord"...Bedford  
(previously recorded, CCLI #20405356)

Children's Choir

### SCRIPTURE READING – Matthew 11:28-30

Leland Morine

### REFLECTIONS ON LENT "His Burden Is Light"

Rev. Anne Swanson

\* **HYMN** "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" (see words on next page) no. 81

## THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES OR DUST

Anne Swanson

Leader: In times of great sorrow and heartache,  
God's people of old would wear their grief. With sackcloth and ashes  
their outward form reflected the reality of their hearts.

**Congregation: Brokenness cannot be hidden away.**

Leader: Tonight we admit the brokenness of our  
hearts, and we wear the sign of our brokenness: ashes or dust.

**Congregation: Our brokenness cannot be hidden away.**

Leader: Yet we know that brokenness is only part of  
the story. There's more. The ashes or dust trace the shape of the cross –  
the cross that removes our sin, heals our brokenness, and makes us whole.

**Congregation: Our brokenness is not forever; we are restored in the cross.**

Leader: Now you may place the sign of the cross on your forehead or hand, as we  
prayerfully reflect on the wondrous love of God.

## ANTHEM

"Create in Me a Clean Heart" ...Jeff Reeves

Choral Ensemble

## RESPONSIVE READING: PSALM 51

Sharon Dinwiddie

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love. According  
to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions.

**Congregation: Create in me a clean heart, make my spirit right and true.**

Leader: Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my  
transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

**Congregation: Guide me with your wisdom, Lord, as I seek to follow you.**

Leader: Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight.  
So you are right in judging me.

**Congregation: God of creation and Lord of my life, show me how I can be more like you  
in all that I do, in word and thought and deed.**

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

**Congregation: Cleanse my heart, O God, from sin; make my spirit pure within.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** "Jesus Loves Me"

## **\*BENEDICTION**

Leader: All those who are in Christ are a new creation;  
the old has gone, the new has come!

**Congregation: Now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.**

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who sacrificed his life for us, and  
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with each one of  
you. Amen.

**ORGAN/PIANO POSTLUDE** "What Wondrous Love Is This"

## **BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS**

Beneath the cross of Jesus, I fain would take my stand,  
The shadow of a mighty rock, within a weary land;  
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,  
From the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus, mine eye at times can see  
The very dying form of One, who suffered there for me;  
And from my stricken heart with tears, two wonders I confess:  
The wonders of redeeming love, and my unworthiness.

## **FOR THINGS THAT I DO WRONG, O LORD** (Children's Choir)

For things that I do wrong, O Lord, for things I fail to do,  
Forgive me, Lord, as I forgive others; I put my trust in you.

You are with me in my times of need, You guide me through each day.  
When I cannot see what's best for me, You are there to show the way.

For things that I do wrong, O Lord, for things I fail to do,  
Forgive me, Lord, as I forgive others; I put my trust in you.

## **LORD, WHO THROUGHOUT THESE FORTY DAYS**

Lord, who throughout these forty days, for us didst fast and pray,  
Teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by Thee to stay.

As Thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win,  
O give us strength in Thee to fight, in Thee to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence, and through Thy Passion-tide,  
Yea, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life, of suffering overpast,  
An Easter of unending joy, we may attain at last!

## **CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART**

Create in me a clean heart, make my spirit right and true.  
Guide me with your wisdom, Lord, as I seek to follow you.

*God of creation and Lord of my life, show me how I can be  
More like you in all that I do, in word and thought and deed.*

Create in me a clean heart, give me strength to trust and obey.  
Call me with your voice of love to the light of your perfect way.

Restore in me your joy, the gift of life anew;  
And then shall my mouth sing songs of praise, for all that comes from you.

## **JESUS LOVES ME, THIS I KNOW**

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so;  
Little ones to Him belong, they are weak but He is strong.

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

Jesus loves me! He who died, heaven's gate to open wide;  
He will wash away my sin, let His little child come in.

Jesus, take this heart of mine, make it pure and wholly Thine;  
On the cross You died for me, I will try to live for Thee.