

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Emily Cowser
Liturgist: Vic Reiman
Organist: Ann Swisher

“I don’t want to face the reality of vulnerability, my own or of those I love. I ignore it altogether for months on end. I’m privileged enough that I can create the illusion of control, my own safety, my own self-protection...Into my false reality of invulnerability, control, and easy amusement, Ash Wednesday proclaims the truth from which I daily flee...We look squarely at the brutal reality of mortal vulnerability that shadows every day we live, every happy moment...But in this shadow of death, there is comfort — not the kind of comfort I manufacture, not false promises of safety and little pleasures, but the relentless, lasting comfort of a Great Shepherd who knows that we’re as vulnerable as bleating sheep and calls us his beloved.”

-Tish Harrison Warren, American writer and Anglican priest

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE "Adagio from Modale Suite" Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

ALL: For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us.

One: Create in us a clean heart, O God, and make us a new creation.

ALL: Restore to us the joy of your salvation.

One: Then we will teach sinners your way and all creation will return to you.

ALL: O Lord, open our lips, and our mouths will declare your praise! Let us worship God!

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
full of pity, love, and power.

I will arise and go to Jesus;
he will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,

O there are ten thousand charms.

Come, ye thirsty, come,
and welcome;
God's free bounty glorify,
true belief and true repentance,
every grace that brings you nigh.

I will arise and go to Jesus;
he will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O there are ten thousand charms.

Come, ye weary, heavy laden,
lost and ruined by the fall;
if you tarry till you're better,
you will never come at all.

I will arise and go to Jesus;
he will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O there are ten thousand charms.

Let not conscience make you linger,
nor of fitness fondly dream;
all the fitness he requireth
is to feel your need of him.

I will arise and go to Jesus;
he will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O there are ten thousand charms.

*CALL TO CONFSSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us. We have many treasures on earth that we hold too dearly, that we withhold from others in need. When we sin against neighbor, condone injustice, and quarrel with one another, we sin against you. Forgive us, we pray, for we are broken in spirit. Do not see us for our faults, and do not go away from us. Keep us always in your presence so that we may be restored to the joy of your salvation. Sustain in us a willing spirit to treasure what you desire; then our hearts will be opened in joy and gladness. In Jesus Christ, our Treasure, we pray. Amen.

(a moment of silent confession)

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: According to God's steadfast love, according to God's abundant mercy, God does not pass judgment on us – the judgment we deserve.

ALL: God creates in us clean hearts and gives us a new and right spirit. In the grace of Jesus Christ, we return to God forgiven. Praise God for our salvation!

*THE PEACE

OLD TESTAMENT READING **Joel 2:1-17** **Page 1414**

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PSALM READING Psalm 51 Page 889

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING 2 Corinthians 5:11—6:13 Page 1799

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

“Gloria Patri” GtG #581

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 17:1-13

Page 1524

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ!

*HYMN

"There Is a Place of Quiet Rest"

GtG #824

There is a place of quiet rest,
near to the heart of God,
a place where sin cannot molest,
near to the heart of God.

O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
sent from the heart of God,
hold us, who wait before thee,
near to the heart of God.

There is a place of comfort sweet,
near to the heart of God,
a place where we our Savior meet,
near to the heart of God.

O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
sent from the heart of God,
hold us, who wait before thee,
near to the heart of God.

There is a place of full release,
near to the heart of God,
a place where all is joy and peace,
near to the heart of God.

O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
sent from the heart of God,
hold us, who wait before thee,
near to the heart of God.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

ALL: We believe that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

One: 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.

ALL: Amen.

You are invited to come forward to receive the ashes either on your forehead or on your hand and to respond with the following words printed in bold:

One: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

ALL: In life and in death, I belong to God.

HYMN

“Sign Us with Ashes
(Sung during the imposition of ashes)

GtG #433

Sign us with ashes, merciful God,
children of dust,
as to dust we return.
Sign us with ashes, merciful God.
Mark us and make us your own.

Surely, you alone can save us.
You pay our price
with precious blood.
Reaching through
your great compassion,
you lift up your people with love.

Sign us with ashes, merciful God,
children of dust,
as to dust we return.

Sign us with ashes, merciful God.

Mark us and make us your own.

Surely, you alone uphold us.

You give us strength

for all our needs.

Shielding with a father's favor,

you bless us with pardon

and peace.

Sign us with ashes, merciful God,

children of dust,

as to dust we return.

Sign us with ashes, merciful God.

Mark us and make us your own.

Surely, you alone can heal us.

Yours is the will to make us whole.

Soothing with a mother's kindness,

the contrite of heart, you console.

Sign us with ashes, merciful God,

children of dust,

as to dust we return.

Sign us with ashes, merciful God.

Mark us and make us your own.

Surely, you alone can free us.

You break the bonds

of guilt and sin.

Bracing, till we walk uprightly,

you bolster our hope once again.

Sign us with ashes, merciful God,

children of dust,

as to dust we return.
Sign us with ashes, merciful God.
Mark us and make us your own.

Surely, you alone refine us.
You give us grace
for lives made new,
forging, through your fire
and radiance,
a sacrifice worthy for you.

Sign us with ashes, merciful God,
children of dust,
as to dust we return.
Sign us with ashes, merciful God.
Mark us and make us your own.

Surely, you alone redeem us.
You fill our dust with holy breath.
Bursting from the grave in glory,
you rise from the ashes of death!

Sign us with ashes, merciful God,
children of dust,
as to dust we return.
Sign us with ashes, merciful God.
Mark us and make us your own.

PRAYER OF RESPONSE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling" GtG #418

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals
he's waiting and watching,

watching for you and for me.

“Come home, come home!
You who are weary, come home.”
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, “O sinner, come home!”

Why should we tarry
when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?

Why should we linger
and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me?

“Come home, come home!
You who are weary, come home.”
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, “O sinner, come home!”

O for the wonderful love
he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned,
he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me.

“Come home, come home!
You who are weary, come home.”
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, “O sinner, come home!”

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“O Innocent Lamb of God”
Marcel Dupre (1886-1971)