



ASH

Wednesday

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 14, 2024

6:00 PM

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDIATION

We bow our heads before you, O God, aware of our sinfulness and our shortcomings. Remembering our baptism, the watermark of the cross upon us, we also receive the ashen cross upon our foreheads - another sign that in life and in death, we belong to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and coming again, we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

arr. Bober

Dr. Terry McRoberts

GATHERING WORDS

Rev. Courtney Bowen

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

ALL: *God's love endures forever.*

One: 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; though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

ALL: *God's love endures forever.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: Let us pray.
(silent prayer)

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

ALL: *Amen.*

***HYMN: 544** *Bless the Lord (see insert, repeat 3 times)*

TAIZE

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(see insert for choral responses)*

Rev. John White

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

ALL: *Sing stanza 1 (on insert)*

One: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

ALL: *Sing stanza 2*

One: You desire truth in my inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

ALL: *Sing stanza 3*

One: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

ALL: *Sing stanza 4*

One: Deliver me O God of my salvation, and my mouth will declare your praise.
ALL: Sing stanza 5

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: According to God's steadfast love, according to God's abundant mercy,
God does not pass judgment on us, the judgement we deserve.
ALL: God creates in us clean hearts and gives a new and right spirit. In the grace
of Jesus Christ, we return to God forgiven. Praise God for our salvation!

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: 519 *You Are My Strength* JERNIGAN
You are my strength when I am weak; you are the treasure that I seek; you are my all in all.
When I fall down, you pick me up; when I am dry, you fill my cup; you are my all in all.
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name! Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Rev. John White

FIRST READING *Psalm 51* Rev. John White

SECOND READING *John 18:15-18, 25-27* Rev. Courtney Bowen

LENTEN MEDITATION Rev. Courtney Bowen

SPECIAL MUSIC *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* HELVEY
Macey Berry, soprano

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

One: Beloved people of God: every year at the time of the Passover we celebrate
our redemption through the death and
resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this
celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery.
ALL: We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for
the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.
One: We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of
the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marks the penitence of this community.
You are invited, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-
examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by
meditating on God's Word.
ALL: Amen.

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## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

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

**ALL: May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, for it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.**

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

**ALL: Amen.**

## TAIZÉ SONG: 204 *Stay with Me*

STAY WITH ME

*Stay with me; remain here with me; watch and pray. Watch and pray.*

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Breaking of the Bread & Sharing of the Cup

Prayer After Communion

## \*RESPONSIVE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

One: The cross...

**ALL: We shall take it.**

One: The pain...

**ALL: We shall bear it.**

One: The joy...

**ALL: We shall share it.**

One: The gospel...

**ALL: We shall live it.**

One: The love...

**ALL: We shall give it.**

One: The light...

**ALL: We shall cherish it.**

One: The darkness...

**ALL: God shall perish it. Amen**

## \*CLOSING HYMN: 227 *Jesus, Remember Me*

TAIZE

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

*(You are invited to leave the sanctuary in silence when you are ready.)*