



*“But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face.”  
- Matthew 6:17*

**February 17, 2021**

**Ash Wednesday Service**

**7:00 p.m.**

PRELUDE

Earthen Vessels

~ J. Foley SJ  
Keith Ciccone, Music Director

GATHERING WORDS

Rev. Michael Frady

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Even now, says the Lord:

Return to me with all your heart.

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast.

**With all our hearts, we return to the Lord,  
for God is gracious and merciful,  
Slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love!**

HYMN

*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 58: 1-12

MESSAGE

**“Living Fully Here and Now”**

ANTHEM

*Hosea Song*

~G. Nortbet  
Valerie Johnson, Soprano

CONFESSION OF SIN (Responsive)

LEADER: As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, study, and works of love help us return to that love. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to love God and neighbor by confessing your sin and by asking God for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

*A moment of silence for reflection and prayer.*

LEADER: Let us pray.

PEOPLE: **Most 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.**

LEADER: We have not loved you with all our heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

\* *Indicates all who are able may stand*

*Please silence your cell phones*

**PEOPLE: Have mercy on us, O God.**

LEADER: We have been deaf 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.

**PEOPLE: Have mercy on us, O God.**

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

**PEOPLE: We confess to you, O God.**

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

**PEOPLE: We confess to you, O God.**

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

**PEOPLE: We confess to you, O God.**

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

**PEOPLE: We confess to you, O God.**

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

**PEOPLE: We confess to you, O God.**

LEADER: 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,

**PEOPLE: Accept our repentance, O God.**

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

**PEOPLE: Accept our repentance, O God.**

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

**PEOPLE: Accept our repentance, O God.**

LEADER: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**PEOPLE: Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.  
Amen.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*Just As I Am*

PRAYER FOR REDEMPTION

O God, accomplish in us the work of your salvation,  
**That we may show forth your glory.**

By the cross and passion of our Savior,

**Bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Almighty God does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore we implore God to grant us true repentance and the Holy Spirit that those things which we do this day may be pleasing to God, that the rest of our lives may be lived faithfully, and that at the last we may come to God's eternal joy; through Jesus the Christ.

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

## BENEDICTION

## HYMN

*Tree of Life*



Remember, Ash Wednesday and Lent are not solely about addressing the darkness of sin in our lives; they are also about demonstrating goodness and reflecting Christ's light. Repent, atone, sacrifice, and fast, as you will. Then, share what you know, and have, and love; This is when you start to become fully alive!



*Whoever you are and  
wherever you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.*



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