

ZION REFORMED

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ash Wednesday ☛ March 2nd, 2022 ☛ 11 A.M.



WORSHIP GUIDE

Our Journey Begins

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Congregational Responses are in **Bold**.

↑An invitation to stand ↓An invitation to sit

Please silence all mobile devices.

✦ Indicates Music Selection.

Gathering Music ✦

"Fugue"

Words of Welcome

Prelude to Worship ✦

"Jesu, Meine Freude"

↑ Call to Community

God's people have been called to gather.

From babbling infants to aging grandparents, all are welcome.

God's people have been called to repent.

From those who blurt out their faults, to those whose secret hearts are broken into pieces, all are welcome.

God's people have been called to be reconciled to our God.

From those who have turned away, to those whose pain whispers in the night, all are welcome.

Why We Are Here

First Lesson

Isaiah 58:1-12 (NRSV)
Lector: Calvin Livingston

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God. 'Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?' Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Call to Reconciliation

Prayer of Brokenness

(*Pastor* – Women – **Men** – **ALL**)

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

Women: You know my transgressions, Righteous God, and so do I.

Men: **I have done what is evil in your sight.**

Women: Please...

Men: **Please...**

Women: As your people, we have not been as faithful as we could be.

Men: **But we do not know how to escape from our sin.**

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

Women: We pass judgment on others;

Men: **And we forget that judgment is your job, not ours.**

Women: Please...

Men: **Please...**

Women: Do not cast me away from you;

Men: **Do not take your Holy Spirit from me.**

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

Women: Wipe away my wrongdoings, God of Mercy;

Men: **Hide your face from my transgressions, God of Love.**

Women: Please...

Men: **Please...**

Women: Create in me a clean heart.

Men: **Put a new and right spirit within me.**

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

Women: Sustain in me a willing spirit;

Men: And restore to me the joy of your salvation.

Women: Please...

Men: Please...

Women: You desire truth in my inward being;

Men: Therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

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

Women: Let me hear joy and gladness;

Men: Let me sing aloud of your deliverance!

Women: Please...

Men: Please...

Women: Our sacrifices will not appease you;

Men: It is our genuine selves that you desire.

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

Women: Deliver me from bloodshed, God of my salvation,

Men: And my whole self will declare your praise!

Women: Have mercy on me, O God,

Men: According to your steadfast love.

Women: Then I will become an example for faithfulness;

Men: And I will help others return to your ways.

ALL: HAVE MERCY ON US, O GOD, ACCORDING TO YOUR STEADFAST LOVE.

Words of Blessing

Hymn of Adoration ✠

"O Sacred Head Now Wounded"

Verses 1 and 3

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Second Lesson

Matthew 6:6, 16-21 (NRSV)

But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 'And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Imposition of Ashes

Hymn of Praise✠

"Forty Days and Forty Nights

Verses 1 and 2

RESPONDING IN LOVE

Invitation to Give

Blessing Our Gifts

For the wondrous ways these gifts will bless this community and the world,

We bless these gifts.

For the ways it'll help us nurture caring relationships with our neighbors,

We bless these gifts.

Let these gifts, and the works of our hands and feet, help us build where all seems broken. Amen.

Offertory Interlude✠

"Alle Menschen müssen sterben"

Third Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 (NRSV)

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, 'At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.' See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill

repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

Come, as we take the first steps of our journey towards Jerusalem. We are witnesses to the dawn of a new season.

Come, as we contemplate the dusk of our lives.

Come, as we set aside the distractions and the concerns that cloud our minds

Come, as we turn our focus on you.

Great Thanksgiving

God of light and dust be with you,

And also with you.

Open wide our hearts:

We open them up to our God.

Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

Even in the midst of the wilderness, we give God our thanks and praise.

Prayer of Communion

Tonight, we come together to remember the beautiful, shared memories we have of our Christ. We remember his servant leadership and the unconditional love he had for all of humankind.

We give thanks for the faithful love of God that we see reflected in Jesus the Christ. We are grateful for one another and for all the saints who have come to the table throughout history and to those who will gather here after we have returned to dust. We give thanks to the hands who have harvested the grapes and grains before us. We commit as God's own children to find new ways of bringing justice, righteousness and love to the shadows on this earth.

The Blessing

May the Spirit bless this simple bread and wine. May the Spirit fill our hearts with love, kindness and acceptance. May the Spirit continue to aid us in our work in the world and as we cross boundaries of denominations and faith differences. May the Spirit empower us as we walk through these 40 days in the wilderness, as we face the sadness of the crucifixion and as we wait for the Christ's resurrection.

Our Story

As Jesus continued on his journey, he could see that his time was drawing nearer. Our Christ knew that his love and leadership would take him to the cross. And as the final night was upon him, he drew close to his friends. To embrace the love he had with them, he shared one last table.

Jesus embraced the bread in his weathered hands, broke it, gave it to his friends asking them to remember him.

Jesus clasped the cup containing the fruit of the vine, gave thanks one last time and asked them to remember him.

In remembering him, we speak the words together in prayer, using the words closest to your hearts saying...

Prayer of Our Savior

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever.
Amen.**

The bread of life. The cup of the new covenant. Both given to us. Both we partake in together as we remember our servant-leader Jesus the Christ.

Sharing the Meal ✧

"O People, Thy Grievous Sin Bemoan"

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

Even as we come to the table tonight remembering our frailty with the dust on our heads, we also give God our thanks for this meal. We give our gratitude that we have come together as one Body of Christ. In these next 40 days and as we walk the road to the crucifixion, continue to keep us awake to the ways we can bring Jesus the Christ's servant-leadership to our world. Amen.

MOVING TOWARDS PEACE ON EARTH

Prelude to Service ✧

"Präludium in A minor"



GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!

SERVICE CREDITS

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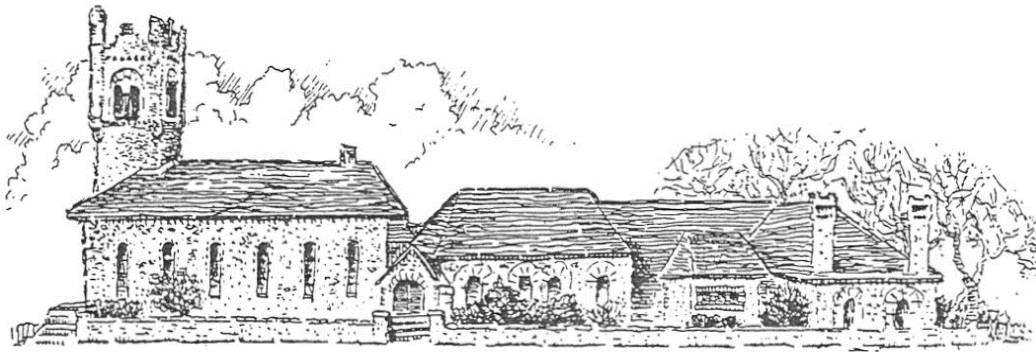
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