

Ash Wednesday

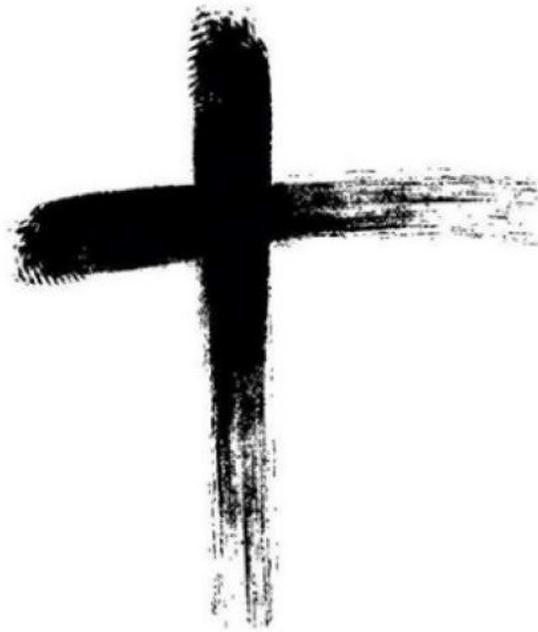
February 17, 2021 - 7:00 pm

at

St. Giles Anglican Church

with

Trinity Lutheran Church



Celebrant - The Ven. Wilma Woods
Preacher - Pastor Lori James
Organist - Margaret Duncan

Sentence:

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Psalm 95.7–8

Canticle of Turning

1 . My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!*

2. Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. . . . *Refrain*

3. From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn.. . . *Refrain*

4. Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around.. . . *Refrain*

Words: Rory Cooney, 1990 A paraphrase of
Luke 1:46-55 Music: Traditional Ireland
Arr: Rory Cooney, 1990

Welcome:

Welcome to the Ash Wednesday service! I am Wilma Woods† Archdeacon and priest here at St Giles. I would like to thank Pastor Lori James of Trinity, Lutheran for preaching tonight. Also, a welcome and thanks to Sharon intern at Trinity Lutheran and a reader tonight. Also, the Rev. Brian Woods Honorary Assistant at St Giles co-president.

This Ash Wednesday Service is a bit different of course but we worship, pray and serve together none the less. For those of you who have received ashes from your church this would be a good time to bring them out. Adding a drop of oil – not water – makes them easier to handle.

If you are watching with family or a social bubble I encourage you to mark one another's forehead when we get to the Imposition of Ashes – we will tell you when. If you are alone, mark your forehead or maybe the back of your hand with a cross of ashes.

If you do not have ashes the words that go with the imposition of ashes is no less important than the symbol – indeed, perhaps they are even more important.

In a spirit of Truth and Reconciliation we begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather, is on in Treaty 4 Territory, the original lands of the Cree, Ojibwe, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, and the homeland of the Metis people.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Collect:

Almighty and everlasting God,
you despise nothing you have made
and forgive the sins of all who are penitent.
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts,
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our brokenness,
may obtain of you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Readings

A Reading from Isaiah

58.1-12

^{58:1} 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.

² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practised righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgements,
they delight to draw near to God.

³ '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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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?

⁶ 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?

⁷ 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?

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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,

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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.

¹² 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.

The Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God

Psalm 103 *sung*

8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.

13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; *
he remembers that we are but dust.

15 Our days are like the grass; *
we flourish like a flower of the field;

16 When the wind goes over it, it is gone, *
and its place shall know it no more.

17 But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever
on those who fear him, *
and his righteousness on children's children;

18 On those who keep his covenant *
and remember his commandments and do them.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen

A Reading from the Second Letter to the Corinthians

5.20-6.10

²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

⁶As we work together with him,* we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For 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! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel

Pastor Lori James

The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

6.1-6,16-21

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

^{6:1} ‘Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² ‘So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*

⁵ ‘And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But 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.*

¹⁶ ‘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. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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.*

¹⁹ ‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust* consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust* consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Sermon

Pastor Lori James

HYMN: I the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am Lord)

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain,
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

I, the Lord of wind and flame;
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

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Dear friends in Christ,
every year at the time of the Christian 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.
We begin this holy season
by remembering our need for repentance,
and for the mercy and forgiveness
proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes,
an ancient sign, speaking of the frailty and uncertainty of human life,
and marking the penitence of the community as a whole.
I invite you therefore, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent
by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving,
and by reading and meditating on the word of God.
Let us kneel before our Creator and Redeemer.

Silence is then kept for reflection.

Psalm 51.1–18. **Said**
Refrain **Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offences.
Wash me through and through from my wickedness * and cleanse me from my sin.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.

For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.

And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgement.
Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.

For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Deliver me from death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.
Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Litany of Penitence

The celebrant and people say together,

**Most holy and merciful Father, we confess to you, 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.**

The celebrant continues,

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

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.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

We confess to you, Lord.

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

We confess to you, Lord.

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

We confess to you, Lord.

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

We confess to you, Lord.

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

We confess to you, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

Imposition of Ashes

“Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”
(As ashes are put on forehead)

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

Celebrant By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord,
People **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

The priest says,
Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you all your sins
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit
keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Celebrant And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,
All **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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen**

Dismissal

May the God of peace enable us to do his will in every kind of goodness,
working in us what pleases him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and
ever.
Amen

HYMN: *Come and Journey*

1. Come and journey with a Saviour
who has called us from our birth,
who has washed us in the waters,
and who loved us on the earth. *Refrain*

*Come and journey, come and journey
with a Saviour who has come.
We are all God's sons and daughters;
in the Spirit we are one.*

2. Come and journey, journey inward,
come and seek him deep within,
where he meets us in our living,
in our striving and our sin. *Refrain*

3. Come and journey, journey outward,
telling others of his name,
telling others of his glory,
of his cross and of the shame. *Refrain*

4. Come and journey, journey outward,
where that cross calls us to care,
where injustice and where hunger
and the poor call us to share. *Refrain*

5. Come and journey, journey upward.
Sing his praises, offer prayer.
In the storm and in the stillness
find his presence everywhere. *Refrain*

6. Come and journey, journey onward;
all our gifts we now shall bring
to the building of a city
that is holy, Christ its King. *Refrain*

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