



St. Paul's Cathedral ✠ Burlington, Vermont

Ash Wednesday ✠ February 17, 2021 ✠ 7:00 o'clock p.m.

✠ During this service the People respond using words printed in bold face.

✠ In this extraordinary time of pandemic, it is important to remember that scattered though we may be, we are one in our prayer.

✠ Before the service, stillness is kept.

We sing hymn 149 in the Hymnal 1982:

1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your Church walk - ing once more the
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self, so dai - ly liv - ing
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise, you the first - born of

pil - grim way of Lent, led by your cloud by day, by night your
to your way of love, we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you
all the faith - ful dead; and as through ston - y ground the green shoots

fire, moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
break, glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flower,

far off yet here - the goal of all de - sire.
so we are dead and live with you God.
so in the Fa - ther's glo - ry shall we wake.

Words Thomas H. Cain (1931-2003) • Music OLD 124TH, melody *Pscalmes octante trois de David*, 1551; har. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)

Opening Rite

The Presider begins the liturgy saying,

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate 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 wretchedness, 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. **Amen.**

The Word of God

We hear a reading from the Hebrew Bible:

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

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 judgments, 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 rear guard. 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.

Isaiah 58:1-12

Here ends the reading.

Members of the youth Confirmation class recite a passage from Psalm 103:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We hear a reading from the Gospels.

A reading from Matthew.

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. 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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"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. 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."

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Here ends the reading.

Sermon *The Preacher breaks the bread of God's word.*

After the Sermon, we sing hymn 148 in the Hymnal 1982:

1 Cre - a - tor of the earth and skies,
2 We have not known you: to the skies
3 We have not loved you: far and wide
4 For this, our fool - ish con - fi - dence,
5 Teach us to know and love you, Lord,
to whom the words of life be - long,
our mon - u - ments of fol - ly soar,
the wreck - age of our ha - tred spreads,
our pride of know - ledge and our sin,
and hum - bly fol - low in your way.
grant us your truth to make us wise; grant
and all our self - wrought mis - er - ies have
3 and e - vils wrought by hu - man pride re -
4 we come to you by pen - i - tence; in
5 Speak to our souls the quick - ening word, and
us your power to make us strong.
2 made us trust our - selves the more.
3 coil on un - re - pent - ant heads.
4 us the work of grace be - gin.
5 turn our dark - ness in - to day.

Words Donald Wynn Hyghes (1911-1967) • Music UFFINGHAM, Jeremiah Clake (1670-1707), alt.

After a brief time of stillness, one of the Catechists presents to the Bishop candidates for Confirmation, saying, Bishop, I present to you Ana, Ngang, Emma, Sylvia, Thomas, Paige, and Jonas. They have been growing in an understanding of our call as Christians and now desire to undertake a more intense preparation to renew their baptismal covenant this coming Easter.

Bishop

One confirmand, speaking for the other candidates, responds to each of the following questions:

What do you seek?

Deeper life in Christ.

In baptism, you died with Christ to the forces of evil and rose to new life as members of his Body. Will you study the promises made at your baptism, and strive to keep them in the companionship of this community?

We will, with God's help.

Will you attend the worship of God regularly with us, to hear the Word and celebrate the mystery of Christ's dying and rising?

We will, with God's help.

Will you join us in our life of service to those who are powerless and outcast, and work for justice and peace?

We will, with God's help.

One of the Catechists responds to the following questions:

You have been chosen by this community to serve as companions to these persons. Will you support them by prayer and example and help them to grow in the knowledge and love of God?

We will, with God's help.

Will you strive to set an example for us of that turning towards Jesus Christ which marks true conversion?

We will, with God's help.

The Bishop prays over the candidates, saying,

Blessed are you, our God, our Maker, for you faithfully call us to return to you and do not abandon us to our own selfishness. You have given Ana, Ngang, Emma, Sylvia, Thomas, Paige, and Jonas, to us as examples of our reliance on you. Renew your Holy Spirit in them that they may lead us in our turning back to you as they prepare to celebrate with us Christ's passage from death to life, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All

Amen.

Addressing the congregation, the Bishop says,

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

A brief period of stillness is then kept.

The Presider says,

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that the dust and ashes we hold may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

If they have them, the People impose ashes upon their forehead, saying:

We are dust, and to dust we shall return.

A Litany of Penitence

The Presider leads the Litany, saying,

Most holy and merciful Father:

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.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors 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 judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,

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

Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;
Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

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

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

The Bishop offers absolution, saying,

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel. Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We join in saying the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

We join in singing hymn 805 in Wonder, Love, and Praise, on the next page. Please sing boldly at home.

1. I want Je - sus _____ to walk with me (walk with me); I want
 2. In my tri - als, _____ Lord, walk with me (walk with me); in my
 3. In my sor - rows, _____ Lord, walk with me (walk with me); in my

Je - sus _____ to walk with me (walk with me); all a -
 tri - als, _____ Lord, walk with me (walk with me); when the
 sor - rows, _____ Lord, walk with me (walk with me); when my

long my _____ pil - grim jour - ney, _____ Lord, I want
 shades of _____ life are fall - ing, _____ Lord, I want
 heart with - in is ach - ing, _____ Lord, I want

Je - sus _____ to walk with me (walk with me).
 Je - sus _____ to walk with me (walk with me).
 Je - sus _____ to walk with me (walk with me).

Words Traditional • Music African American Spiritual; arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *The Haywood collection of Negro Spirituals*

The Deacon says,

Let us bow our heads before the Lord.

The Presider offers a solemn prayer over the People:

Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Deacon dismisses us, saying

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

An instrumental voluntary is played. Afterwards, stillness is kept, and all depart.

+ + +

Presider & Preacher Bishop Shannon MacVean-Brown  *Deacon* Stan Baker
Organist Mark Howe *Readers* Lisa Schnell, Betsy Beaulieu

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THE Cathedral 
Church OF St. Paul

LOVING | EXPLORING | SERVING

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The Very Reverend Greta Getlein | *Dean and Rector*

The Reverend J. Stannard Baker | *Deacon*

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