

Create in me A CLEAN HEART,

O God;



and RENEW
a RIGHT SPIRIT

within me.

PSALM 51:10



Trinity United Church of Christ

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Trinity United Church of Christ
February 14, 2024
7:00PMWorship
Ash Wednesday

Awakening joyful service guided by our still speaking God!

There is no other day like Ash Wednesday. The proud and the meek, the arrogant and the humble are all made equal on Ash Wednesday. The healthy and the sick, the assured and the sick in spirit, all make their way to church in the gray morning or in the dusty afternoon.

*They line up silently, eyes downcast, bony fingers counting the beads of the rosary, lips mumbling prayers. All are repentant, all are preparing themselves for the shock of the laying of the ashes on the forehead and the pastor's agonizing words,
"You are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

Rudolfo A. Anaya

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PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(Adapted from the Joel 2:1-2, 12-17)

The Day of the Lord is coming upon us!
O Lord, we need your mercy and grace!

A day of darkness and gloom, of sorrow and worry, of grief and shaking spirits.
O God, sustain us!

A day of terror and turmoil, of pain and faltering,
of deep sadness and trembling hearts.

Blow the trumpet! Call all the people together!
Bring all the men and women, all the children, all the elders.
Raise your voices and sound the alarm!

Look, Holy One! We gather ourselves together between the altar and the door!
We mourn; we weep, we fast! We cannot sing Alleluia when our voices are broken by tears!

Most High, come and save us! Spare us!
Do not let them ask, "Where is now their God?"

***HYMN #337 "Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

ANTHEM

“No Rose Bloomed in Gethsemane”

arr. J. Paige

Senior Choir

Georgia Hollabaugh, Flute

LITANY OF CONFESSION

O God of Grace, may we not have received you in vain.
When we pray because we desire others' good opinion,
Forgive us, Lord.

When we give our gifts for others' approval,
Forgive us, O God.

When we deny ourselves to get others' admiration,
Forgive us, Merciful One.

When we fail to do unto others as we would like them to do unto us,
Forgive us, Spirit of Love.

When we put our privileged selves first,
before the poor and needy and disadvantaged of this world,
Forgive us, Creator of Truth.

When we keep for ourselves more than what we need,
Forgive us, Give-Away God.

Forgive us our sins and trespasses and debts.
Only then can our souls be washed clean and spotless.
Only then can we be your true servants.
Only then will we reach the pure heart of the matter.

(Moment of Silent Reflection)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

For the heart of the matter is that we can find our treasures in heaven,
and also on earth, so long as we are forgiven and set free of our burdens and sin.
Bless God who frees us and lights up our heart-shadows with the fire of love. Amen.

GOSPEL READING
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

**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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power and the Glory, forever. Amen.**

*HYMN #454 "Lord I Want to Be a Christian" (*Vs 1-3*)

CELEBRATION OF OUR GIFTS

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #454 "Lord I Want to Be a Christian" (*V4*)

*Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION/GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right and a good and joyful thing
always and everywhere to give thanks to you, O God.
You created us to live in communion with you, yet we turned away.

You spoke through your prophet Joel: Return to me with all your heart, for I am gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. **We come on this Ash Wednesday, knowing our failings but trusting in your steadfast mercies. Thanks be to you, Holy God, for your steadfast mercy.**

You are holy and blessed is your child Jesus Christ. Your Spirit flowed through his life, as he became the bridge for our reconciliation.

In this season we remember his life and work.

We remember your gift of Baptism.

We reflect on the mystery of the cross, we dare to ponder resurrection.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to the disciples, and said:

“Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this all of you; this is the blood of my new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

*SHARING OF THE OF BREAD AND CUP

(We have an Open Table; ALL are welcome at the Table of Remembrance.

We use Gluten Free Bread and Grape Juice.

Please come forward as the Usher directs you up the center aisle.

We will form a semi-circle around the Communion Table.

You will be individually served the bread first and then the cup.

Remain in the semi-circle for the Imposition of Ashes!

The pastor will offer a benediction and you will leave the chancel area placing your cups in the receptacles provided, then return to your seat.

Please let an Usher know if you are not able to come forward and we will come to you.)

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

We give you thanks, wondrous God, for meeting us at this table of grace and for the mystery of creation and the miracle of life, and for seeds of renewal you plant deep within all living things. We thank you for your child Jesus Christ, and asked that you grant us fellowship with him who came to minister and serve others. Bring us grace and strength for all times, joy for being a part of your mysterious companionship, and commitment as we respond to your command. Amen.

***HYMN #186 "Dust and Ashes Touch Our Face"**

***FINAL BLESSING**

So, you have come in the struggle of your lives
to acknowledge Jesus and his life and death.
While you wear the symbol of all death on your foreheads or on your wrists,
still, know in your hearts that this is not all there is.
"Ashes to ashes and dust to dust" is the stuff of our little lives.
But the heart of the matter is the faith in God within you
and the fire of Christ's love in your life and work.
Go in peace and hope, and gather your true purpose about you! **Amen.**

***POSTLUDE**

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Today's Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Young
Grace Winakor
Sara Shank
John McKay
Roberta Weiant

Pastor
Student Intern
Organist
Senior Choir Director
Greeter/Usher
Acolyte
Tech Team

Georgia Hollabaugh, Kara Young, Luke Milhimes, Sue Churchill,
Russell Bailey, Carl Barrick, Stacey Rushwald, George Steckert, Garrison Redding, Terry Krietz

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Percy Dearmer, 1925; alt.

1. Draw us in the Spir-it's teth-er,
for when hum-bly in your name,
two or three are met to-geth-er,
you are in the midst of them;
Al-le-lu-ia!
Al-le-lu-ia!
Touch we now your gar-ment's hem.

2. As dis-ci-ples used to gath-er
in the name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God the Giv-er,
break the bread and bless the cup,
Al-le-lu-ia!
Al-le-lu-ia!
So now bind our friend-ship up.

3. All our meals and all our liv-ing
make as sac-ra-ments of you,
that by car-ing, help-ing, giv-ing,
we may be dis-ci-ples true.
Al-le-lu-ia!
Al-le-lu-ia!
We may serve with faith a-new.

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Matt. 18:20

Lord, I Want To Be a Christian

454

African-American spiritual

1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
2. Lord, I want to be more lov-ing in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more lov-ing in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more lov-ing in my heart.
3. Lord, I want to be more ho-ly in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more ho-ly in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more ho-ly in my heart.
4. Lord, I want to be like Je-sus in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Je-sus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Je-sus in my heart.

Deut. 6:5-6; 10:12-16

Dust and Ashes Touch Our Face

186

Brian Wren, 1989

1. Dust and ash-es touch our face,
mark our fail-ure and our fall-ing.
Ho-ly Spir-it, come, walk with us to-mor-row,
take us as dis-ci-ples, washed and wak-ened by your call-ing.
Take us by the hand and lead us, lead us through the des-ert sands,
bring us liv-ing wa-ter, Ho-ly Spir-it, come.

2. Dust and ash-es soil our hands—
greed of mar-ket, pride of na-tion.
Ho-ly Spir-it, come, walk with us to-mor-row
as we pray and strug-gle through the mesh-es of op-pres-sion.
Take us by the hand and lead us, lead us through the des-ert sands,
bring us liv-ing wa-ter, Ho-ly Spir-it, come.

3. Dust and ash-es choke our tongue
in the waste-land of de-pres-sion.
Ho-ly Spir-it, come, walk with us to-mor-row
through all gloom and griev-ing to the paths of res-ur-rec-tion.
Take us by the hand and lead us, lead us through the des-ert sands,
bring us liv-ing wa-ter, Ho-ly Spir-it, come.

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Gen. 3:17–19; Ps. 51:1–12