

WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASH WEDNESDAY

MARCH 2, 2022

A Service of Ashes, Repentance and Commitment

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Choral Dorian

Alain

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Create in us a clean heart, O God,

All: And put a new, faithful spirit deep inside us.

Leader: Your delight is not in our perfection;

All: Rather, your delight is found in a heart that is broken and crushed.

Leader: We ask that you would open our lips, O God,

All: So our mouths proclaim your praise.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Merciful God, you invite us into your presence as we are: sinners with broken and contrite hearts. When we come as we are, it is only then that you are able to fill us with your unending truth, deep wisdom, compassionate hearts, and loving spirits. We open ourselves to you so that we might be filled by you this night, for truly, we are the ones who need your faithful love and mercy. Amen.

*To all who are able, please stand as we offer God thanks and praise.

Bold type face indicates that the congregation participates in word or song.

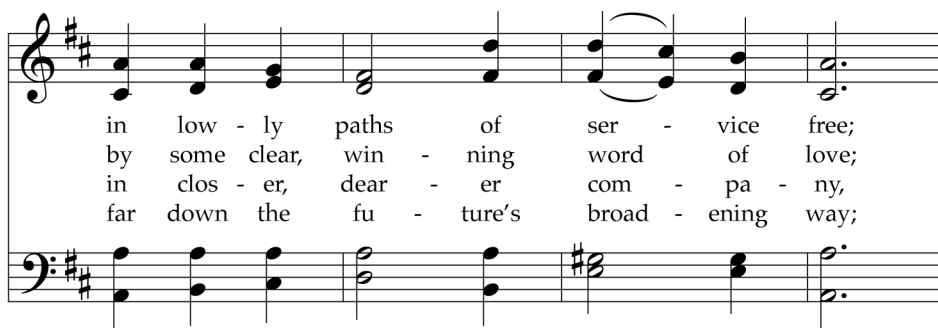
*HYMN 738

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

MARYTON



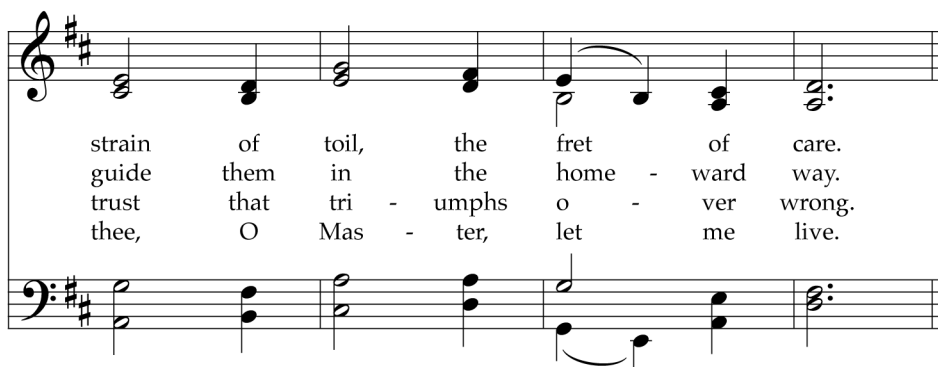
1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with thee
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move
 3 Teach me thy pa - tience, still with thee
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray



in low - ly paths of ser - vice free;
 by some clear, win - ning word of love;
 in clos - er, dear - er com - pa - ny,
 far down the fu - ture's broad - ening way;



tell me thy se - cret; help me bear the
 teach me the way - ward feet to stay, and
 in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in
 in peace that on - ly thou canst give, with



strain of toil, the fret of care.
 guide them in the home - ward way.
 trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.
 thee, O Mas - ter, let me live.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (written by Pamela Hawkins)

Leader: O Lord by your Spirit open to us the Words of Life, a spring of water that shall never fail. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: *Isaiah 58:1-9a*

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 practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
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?

(continued on next page)

⁷Is 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?
⁸Then 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.
⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
 you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

SECOND LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2

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.

¹As 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!

PSALM 51:1-17 (Refrain to be sung by the Choir and Congregation)

IRISH



Have mercy on me, O God, in your kindness;
 In your compassion blot out my offense.
 O wash me thoroughly from my guilt,
 And cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,
 My sin is always before me.
 Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
 What is evil in your sight I have done. (Antiphon)

That you may be justified when you give sentence
 And blameless when you pass judgment,
 O see, in guilt, I was born,
 A sinner was I conceived.

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Indeed, you love truth in the heart;
Then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.
O purify me, then I will be clean;
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow. (Antiphon)

Let me hear rejoicing and gladness,
Let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins,
And blot out all my guilt.

Create in me a pure heart, O God,
Put a steadfast spirit within me,
Do not cast me away from your presence,
And do not take your Holy Spirit from me. (Antiphon)

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
With a willing spirit sustain me,
Then I will teach transgressors your ways
And sinners will return to you.

O rescue me, God, my helper,
And my tongue shall sing of your goodness,
O Lord, open my lips
And my mouth will declare your praise. (Antiphon)

For in sacrifice you take no delight,
Burnt offering from me you would refuse;
My sacrifice is a contrite spirit.
A humble, contrite heart you will not spurn. (Antiphon)

SERMON

“Creating Clean Hearts”

John E. Morgan

LITANY OF PENITENCE (Responsive)

Leader: Most holy and merciful Lord: 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.

All: Have mercy on us, Lord.

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.

All: Have mercy on us, Lord.

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

All: We confess to you, Lord.

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

All: We confess to you, Lord.

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

All: We confess to you, Lord.

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

All: We confess to you, Lord.

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

All: We confess to you, Lord.

Leader: 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,

All: Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

All: Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

All: Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

All: Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Leader: Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

All: That we may show forth your glory in the world.

Leader: By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

All: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of the resurrection.

TIME OF SILENT MEDITATION

INVITATION TO ASHES

CALL TO LENT AND CONFESSION

Leader: Beloved people of God: 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 renew our life in the paschal mystery. We begin this holy season by acknowledging 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. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marks the penitence of this community. I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent, by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by meditating on God's word. Now let us bow before God, our creator and redeemer.

PRAYER OVER THE ASHES

Leader: Loving God, through these ancient ashes we hear your calling to return to you. It was from the soil of the sacred earth, even remnants of stardust, that you created life, and so in death, in ashes, we return to you. As we are marked, we are reminded of your declaration of the goodness of creation, of our holy connection with universe, and the fulfillment of redemption through Christ alone. As we carry this blessed symbol from this place, it is a humble reminder of our mortality, but even more so, of the divine love that continues through the ages and into life eternal. Amen.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

ANTHEM

“Create in Me”

Terre Johnson

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence,
And take not thy holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of thy salvation
And uphold me with thy free spirit.

CLOSING PRAYER

THE SENDING

HYMN 649

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound AMAZING GRACE
Stanzas 1 - 4

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in the key of D major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a corresponding lyric line. The lyrics are arranged in five stanzas. The first system covers the first two stanzas, the second system covers the next two stanzas, and the third system covers the final stanza. The music features a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady bass line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across measures.

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*
AMAZING GRACE

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to
sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

The musical notation is written on three staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the response, the second staff contains the second line, and the third staff contains the third line, ending with a double bar line.

The service of worship concludes after the benediction response.

UPCOMING WORSHIP INFORMATION

- **Today, Ash Wednesday, March 2, marks the beginning of the mid-week worship services during Lent.** Services will be held Wednesday evenings until Holy Week, 7:00 - 7:30pm in-person and live-streamed.
The sermon series is titled “*God’s Table*”.
- **Join us for worship Sunday morning at 9:30am online March 6, the 1st Sunday in Lent. The Celebration of the Lord’s Supper will be served at all services.**
- **Services on Wednesday evening and Sunday morning** are a wonderful way to prepare our hearts and minds for the **Passion and Resurrection of Easter Week.** Worship services at WPC are open to all and we encourage you to invite your family and friends to join us.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES **7pm in-person and live-streamed**

March 9

Creating God’s Table

March 16

Finding God’s Table

March 23

Opening God’s Table

March 30

Filling God’s Table

April 6

Serving at God’s Table