

March 1, 2017

**Ash Wednesday Service  
with Imposition of Ashes**

7:00 PM

*Welcome! We're glad you're here. Please sign in  
using the attendance books along the side aisles.*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

*Aria in A-minor*  
by J. S. Bach

David Lines, Organist

WELCOME

Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

(Pastor) The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

**(Congregation) And also with you.**

(Pastor) Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**(All) God's mercy endures forever! Amen!**

CHORAL INTROIT

*"Seek the Lord"*  
by Hal H. Hopson

The Aldersgate Chorale  
Directed by  
Yvonne Flagg

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Loretta Cudney, Liturgist

(ADAPTED FROM JOEL 2:12)

(Leader) "Return to me!"

**(People) Christ calls, and we hear.**

(Leader) "Return to me!"

**(People) Christ calls, and we listen.**

(Leader) "Return to me!"

**(People) Christ calls, and we respond.**

(Leader) "Return to me!"

**(All) Christ calls, and we turn . . .**

**toward life, toward love, toward God.**

\* OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)

Loretta Cudney, Liturgist

(ADAPTED FROM JOEL 2, PSALM 51)

**(All) With open hearts, merciful God, we desire to live in your grace. Speak to us with wisdom and mercy, with patience and perseverance, that we may hear your call and mend our ways. As we embark on this Lenten journey, walk with us and teach us your love, that we might be signs of your grace. With joyous hope, we pray. Amen.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

Aldersgate Chorale

*"Lord, Give Ear to My Prayer"*

by Noble Cain

\* HYMN #269: *"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"*

All

SCRIPTURE LESSON:

**Romans 7:14-25**

Loretta Cudney, Liturgist

(The New Testament, page 147 NRSV)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

ANTHEM

Aldersgate Chorale

*"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"*

by Lowell Mason, arr. Edwin M. Steckel

\* GOSPEL LESSON:

**Luke 18:9-14**

Loretta Cudney, Liturgist

(The New Testament, page 76 NRSV)

Leader: This is the Gospel of Christ!

All: **Glory to You, O Christ! Amen.**

SERMON

**"THIS IS A REAL MESS"**

Rev. J. T. Kim

(BASED ON CHAPTER 1 FROM THE BOOK RESTORED)

## INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

(Pastor) Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: the early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation. During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church. In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word. To make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now bow (or kneel) before our Creator and Redeemer.

## THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

(Pastor) God of dust and ash, you fashioned us from the dust of the earth, and to dust we shall return. May the ashes that we place on our foreheads this evening remind us of who we are and whose we are. Draw us back to you, O God, for you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Heal the hardness of our hearts, that we may be faithful disciples of the one who makes all things new.  
**(All) Amen!**

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*When you are ready, please come forward and receive the symbol of the cross on your forehead.*

(Pastor) Repent, and believe the gospel!

**(Each Person) Amen!**

MUSIC

*“Pari Intervallo”*  
by Arvo Part

David Lines, Organist

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Rev. J. T. Kim

(PSALM 51)

**(All) Holy One, wash away our guilt and cleanse us from our shortcomings, for we have transgressed against you and turned away from your paths. You desire truth in our inward being, yet we reject the wisdom you place in our hearts. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Do not cast us away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from us. Lead us anew in the paths of life, that we might return to you with all heart. Amen.**

\* SILENT PRAYER

\* PARDON

(Pastor) May the almighty and merciful God, who desires not the death of a sinner but that we turn from wickedness and live, accept your repentance, forgive your sins, and restore you by the Holy Spirit to newness of life.

**(All) Amen!**

\* THE PEACE

(Pastor) Throw off the garments of death, and embrace the life God offers us this evening when we live as God intends. Let us share this joy as we turn and pass the peace of Christ. Peace be with you!

**(All) Peace be with you!**

## OFFERING

Offertory

David Lines, Organist

*"My Inmost Heart Now Yearns"*  
set by Johann G. Walther

## \* DOXOLOGY

### \* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (UNISON)

**(All)** Gracious God, we have sought recognition for our piety, and taken pride in our giving. Receive these offerings in the spirit of your Son, who taught us to watch our hearts— for where our hearts are, there our treasure will be also. May our treasure be in you, Holy One, and in the welfare of our world. Amen.

### \* SENDING HYMN #357 *"Just As I Am, Without One Plea"*

All

### \* RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

**(Pastor)** Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and we will be whiter than snow.

**(Congregation)** Bathe us in your steadfast love.

**(Pastor)** Create in us a clean heart, O God, and help us hear the joy of your calling.

**(Congregation)** Restore to us the joy of your salvation.

**(Pastor)** Go with God's blessing!

**(All)** Amen!

### \* CHORAL RESPONSE TO BENEDICTION

Aldersgate Chorale

*"Jesus, Our Only Joy"*  
by Paul Sjolund

DEPART IN SILENCE

\* DENOTES STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE.