



TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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PRE-SERVICE

OPENING WORDS

On Ash Wednesday we publicly show that we want to “bring to ashes” those things in us that are not pleasing to our Lord. By accepting a cross of ashes on our foreheads, we identify ourselves as sinners who are determined to grow into better persons. We keep in mind that the goal of our determination is new life as promised by our Lord Jesus. We realize that in order to share in that new life, we must die to the old. The ashes remind us today that we are join with Jesus in His life, ministry, death and resurrection.

PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision (for piano and guitar)

arr. Todd Davis

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 51: 1-15 The Message)

Rev. Richard Creamer

L: Generous in love—God, give grace!

A: Huge in mercy—wipe out my bad record.

L: Scrub away my guilt, soak out my sins in your laundry.

A: I know how bad I’ve been; my sins are staring me down.

L: You’re the One I’ve violated, and you’ve seen it all, seen the full extent of my evil.

A: You have all the facts before you; whatever you decide about me is fair.

L: I’ve been out of step with you for a long time, in the wrong since before I was born.

A: What you’re after is truth from the inside out.

L: Enter me, then; conceive a new, true life.

A: Soak me in your laundry and I'll come out clean, scrub me and I'll have a snow-white life.

L: Tune me in to foot-tapping songs, set these once-broken bones to dancing.

A: Don't look too close for blemishes, give me a clean bill of health.

L: God, make a fresh start in me, shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life.

A: Don't throw me out with the trash, or fail to breathe holiness in me.

L: Bring me back from gray exile, put a fresh wind in my sails!

A: Give me a job teaching rebels your ways so the lost can find their way home.

L: Commute my death sentence, God, my salvation God,
and I'll sing anthems to your life-giving ways.

A: Unbutton my lips, dear God; I'll let loose with your praise.

HYMN* *Jesus the Very Thought of Thee*

*Jesus, the very thought of thee
With sweetness fills the breast
But sweeter far thy face to see
And in thy presence rest.*

*O hope of every contrite heart
O joy of all the meek,
To those who fall, how kind thou art!
How good to those who seek!*

*But what to those who find?
Ah, this nor tongue nor pen can show
The love of Jesus, what it is
None but his loved ones know.*

*Jesus, our only joy be thou
As thou our prize wilt be
Jesus, be thou our glory now
And through eternity. Amen.*

OPENING PRAYER**

Rev. Richard Creamer

God of the broken, we come as instruments that are scarred and marred by the vagaries of life. As we begin our journey this Lenten season, we thank you for becoming a broken God for broken people. Help us to remember that while the thief comes to steal, kill and destroy, Jesus comes to give us life in abundance. Forgive us for our lack of judgement: for times in which we dabbled with sin, instead of choosing the sacred. Help us not only to recognize that we are broken, but to rejoice that we have a potter who gives us a second chance. Help us to eagerly seek your pardon and walk away from darkness into your marvelous light. In Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTHEM Change My Heart, O God/Lord Be Glorified arr. John Wilson Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE Psalm 51:1-12 Rev. Richard Creamer

SINGING OUR CONFESSION

Hymn* Refiner's Fire

*Purify my heart
Let me be as gold
And precious silver
Purify my heart
Let me be as gold
Pure gold*

*Refiner's fire
My heart's one desire
Is to be holy
Set apart for You Lord
I choose to be holy
Set apart for You my Master
Ready to do Your will*

*Purify my heart
Cleanse me from within
And make me holy
Purify my heart
Cleanse me from my sin
Deep within*

Hymn* Create In Me A Clean Heart

Chorus

*Create in me a clean heart
And renew a steadfast spirit in me
Create in me a clean heart
And renew a steadfast spirit in me*

*Cast me not from Your presence
Or take Your Holy Spirit from me
Restore to me the joy of salvation
And give me a willing spirit
Give me a willing spirit
Give me a willing spirit O God*

SERMON

Have mercy on me, O God!

Rev. Arun Andrews

A time of silent personal confession and surrender.

Hymn* Something Beautiful, Something Good

*Something beautiful
Something good
All my confusion
He understood
All I had to offer Him
Was brokenness and strife
But He made something
Beautiful of my life*

We will not be having the imposition of ashes this year.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

May our Almighty and merciful God, who desires not death for a sinner, but that we turn from wickedness and live, accepts your repentance, forgive your sins, and restores you by the Holy Spirit to newness of life.

Hymn* The Old Rugged Cross

*On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross
The emblem of suffering and shame
And I love that old cross
Where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.*

Refrain:

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged cross
and exchange it some day for a crown.*

*O that old rugged cross
So despised by the world
Has a wondrous attraction for me
For the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary.*

*In that old rugged cross
Stained with blood so divine
A wondrous beauty I see
For 'twas on that old cross
Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me.*

*To that old rugged cross I will ever be true
Its shame and reproach gladly bear
Then he'll call me some day
To my home far away
Where his glory forever I'll share.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Softly and Tenderly (for piano)

Dale Wood

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

You may remain in silence for a time of meditation and prayer.

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE: INDIVIDUAL QUIET MOMENT

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. You are invited, therefore, in the name of the Lord, 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, would you take time tonight in quiet communion and prayer with your Maker and Redeemer?

INVITATION TO CONSIDER PRACTICING LENTEN DISCIPLINES LIKE:

1. Including an extra 10-15 minutes for prayer each evening
2. Including an extra daily Bible reading time.
3. Setting aside money to support homeless people.
4. Setting added an items and giving them away.
5. Praying for the members of Trinity using the Church directory
6. Praying for one nation a day.
7. Spending quiet moments alone with the Lord.
8. Writing a card, note, letter to someone you need to reconcile with.
9. Using the days of the week to guyed us in prayer:
 - Monday (M):** Pray for mothers who are single moms.
 - Tuesday (T):** Pray for teenagers who face difficulties, loneliness and temptations.
 - Wednesday (W):** Pray for world concerns and governments.
 - Thursday (T):** Pray for the transmission of the Gospel through media, print, music, etc.
 - Friday (F):** Pray for Families that are going through hard times.
 - Saturday (S):** Pray for Church services.
 - Sunday (S):** Take time to be in silence.

In Charge of Trinity: The Heavenly Father

Rev. Arun Andrews, Senior Pastor

Rev. Carl Ford Peterson, Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Peggy Spengler, Pastor of Prayer, Discipleship and Evangelism

Todd Davis, Director of Music Ministries

Barbara Zimmerman, Parish Nurse

Haley Warner, Director of Youth Ministries

Nihal Andrews, Director of Media Ministry

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**Written by Arun Andrews