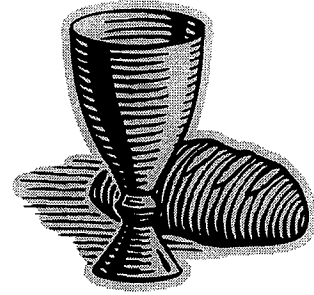


Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 9, 2005



Gathering – Enter in Silence

Preparation and Reflection

Close your eyes, take a deep breath and empty your mind of today's busyness. The Psalmist declares "Search me, O God, and know my heart. See if there is any offensive way in me." (Psalm 139). As you begin your worship, take time to bring yourself before God. Like the Psalmist, allow God to search your heart and bring to mind those things in your life that may be "offensive" to God. What things, thoughts, or relationships are crippling your walk with God?

Call to Pause and Introduction to the Lenten Season

Rick Bennett

Call to Worship

Psalm 130

Josh Gribble

Opening Prayer

Song: *Just As I Am*, Stanza 1

Tune: WOODWORTH

Scripture: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17a

Greg Walters

Song: *Just As I Am*, Stanza 2

A Psalm of Confession (Psalm 51: 1-17)

Grace Powell Freeman

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness;
In your great compassion blot out my offenses.
Wash me through and through from my wickedness
And cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin I is ever before me.
Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgment.
Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb.
For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Make me hear of joy and gladness that the body you have broken may rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
I shall teach your ways to the wicked and sinners shall return to you.

Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.

Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, but you take no delight in burnt offering.
The sacrifice of God is a troubled Spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God,
You will not despise.

Silence for Reflection

Song: *Just As I Am*, Stanza 3

Scripture: Colossians 2:13-15

Erin Raffield

Song: *Just As I Am*, Stanza 4

Scripture: Genesis 2:4-7

Rick Bennett

Invitation to Ashes

Prayer

Imposition of Ashes

(You are invited to come forward and receive ashes in the form of a cross on the palm of your hand.)

Scripture: I John 1:8-9

Jane Riley

Song: *Just As I Am*, Stanza 5

Scripture: Isaiah 43:1-3a

Lance Wallace

Invitation to the Table

Communion

Lisa Jones/Larry Hurst

Song: *Just As I Am*, Stanza 6

Lenten Benediction

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

Jesus keep me near the Cross;
There a precious fountain;
Free to all a healing stream,
Flows from Calvary's mountain.
In the Cross, In the Cross,
Be my glory ever
Till my ransomed soul shall find,
Rest beyond that River.



Scattering – Depart in Silence