

The Church at Worship

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2018

The Westminster Chimes and the Striking of the Hour

The Welcome

Reverend Josh Hughes

*The Invocation

Rev. Hughes

*The Call to Worship from Joel 2:1-12

Dr. Thomas Hinton

Leader: Blow the trumpet in Zion! Sound the alarm on God's holy mountain. Call all the people together—young and old.

People: For the day of the Lord is coming, a day unlike any other.

Leader: The time of Lent and learning is at hand.

People: On this first day of Lent, we pause, look within, and examine ourselves.

Leader: "Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart,

People: With fasting and weeping and mourning.

Leader: Rend your hearts and not your garments."

People: "Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and filled with compassion and love."

Leader: Let all the inhabitants of the earth tremble, for the Lord is near!

People: Have mercy upon us, O Lord.

*The Hymn 323 "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy"

RESTORATION

*The Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 51:1-17 (pg. 889)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Evening Prayer

Rev. Hughes

Congregational Prayer of Confession

(based on Psalm 51)

We bring our burdens and our sins to You, O Christ, who bears the heavy load for us. We place upon You our excuses, our shortcomings, our anger and our desire, knowing that You can remove these sins from us and restore us to life.

We confess that we have gone astray. We confess that we have not loved You fully and have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.

We confess that we have not fully loved even our very selves.

Forgive us of our sins. Help us to turn back to You.

Restore what has been broken, transform what has been twisted, find what has been lost, so we may be the living, loving image of You in creation. In Your precious name, we pray. Amen.

*The Hymn of Reflection "I Take the Cross of Jesus Christ" KINGSFOLD

Vs 1. **I take the cross of Jesus Christ in ashes on my face.
This ancient symbol made in dust reminds me of His grace.
I beg for mercy from my Lord, to cleanse me deep within.
I know myself, my faulty life, my tendency toward sin.**

Vs. 2. **O cross of ashes, speak again in ways I understand;
speak forth repentance, let me know forgiveness from Your hand.
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray; look deep within and find
our hearts made whole, our thoughts made pure, our eyes no
longer blind.**

Vs. 3. **This cross of ashes on my brow reminds me life is brief.
From dust I came, to dust I go through sorrow, pain, and grief.
These forty days are set aside for those who share the call
To take the cross, deny themselves, and give to Christ their all.**

*The New Testament Lesson Matthew 6:1-21 (pg. 1503)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Anthem	“Lamb”	Donn
	<i>Carol Frye, Cello</i>	

The Meditation	“A Clean Closet”	Rev. Hughes
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*Imposition of Ashes Rev. Hughes and Dr. Hinton

*The Benediction Rev. Hughes

*The Chiming of the Trinity

Organist: *Todd Wright*

(*Congregation Standing)