



## ***A Service of Worship and Reflection***

March 5, 2025

7:00 p.m.

### ***GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER***

#### **PRELUDE**

#### **“Lord Jesus, Think on Me”**

Sanctuary Choir

music: Austin Lovelace

text: Bishop Synesius

Lord Jesus, think on me and purge away my sin.  
From earth-born passion set me free and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me with many cares oppressed.  
Let me Thy loving servant be and taste Thy promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me nor let me go astray.  
Through darkness and perplexity point Thou the heavenly way.  
Lord Jesus, think on me.

#### **WORDS OF PREPARATION AND REFLECTION**

## ANTHEM

### “Wondrous Love”

arr. John Jacob Niles

Sanctuary Choir

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul?  
What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of bliss  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?  
To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,  
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing.  
To God and to the Lamb who is the great "I AM,"  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

based in Isaiah 58:3-9

Pastor: God says, Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers.

**People: God says, Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.**

Pastor: Is this not the fast that God chooses? To loose the bonds of injustice, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

**People: We are to share our bread with the hungry, bring the homeless poor into our house, clothe the naked, and not hide ourselves from our own kin.**

Pastor: Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help,

**People: and God will say, Here I am.**

## SONG

### “Here I Am to Worship”

Tim Hughes

Light of the World, You stepped down into darkness  
Opened my eyes, let me see  
Beauty that made this heart adore You  
Hope of a life spent with You.  
Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my God  
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me.  
King of all days, Oh so highly exalted  
Glorious in heaven above  
Humbly You came to the earth You created  
All for love's sake became poor.

I'll never know how much it cost to see my sins up on that cross.

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: In quiet trust, in simple words, we enter a space for prayer. As we confess our sins, both secret and public, the door to God's heart is open, and we enter into grace and mercy.

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us. We have many treasures on earth that we hold too dearly; that we withhold from others in need. When we sin against neighbor, condone injustice, and quarrel with one another, we sin against you. Forgive us, we pray, for we are broken in spirit. Do not see us for our faults, and do not go away from us. Keep us always in your presence so that we may be restored to the joy of your salvation. Sustain in us a willing spirit to treasure what you desire; then our hearts will be opened in joy and gladness. In Jesus Christ, our Treasure, we pray. Amen.**

## DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

**Pastor:** According to God's steadfast love, according to God's abundant mercy, God does not pass judgment on us; the judgment we deserve.

**People:** **God creates in us clean hearts and gives us a new and right spirit. In the grace of Jesus Christ, we return to God forgiven. Praise God for our salvation!**

## SONG

### **"The Lord is My Song"**

Taizé Community

The Lord is my song  
The Lord is my praise  
All my hope comes from God.

The Lord is my song  
The Lord is my praise  
God, the wellspring of life.

## RESPONSIVE READING OF PSALM 51:1-17

**Pastor:** Have mercy on me, God, according to your faithful love! Wipe away my wrongdoings according to your great compassion! Wash me completely of my guilt; purify me from my sin! Because I know my wrongdoings, my sin is always right in front of me.

**People:** **I've sinned against you – you alone. I've committed evil in your sight. That's why you are justified when you render your verdict, completely correct when you issue your judgment. Yes, I was born in guilt, in sin, from the moment my mother conceived me. And yes, you want truth in the most hidden places; you teach me wisdom in the most secret space.**

**Pastor:** Purify me with hyssop and I will be clean; wash me and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and celebration again; let the bones you crushed rejoice once more. Hide your face from my sins; wipe away all my guilty deeds! Create a clean heart for me, God; put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me! Please don't throw me out of your presence; please don't take your holy spirit away from me. Return the joy of your salvation to me and sustain me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach wrongdoers your ways, and sinners will come back to you.

Deliver me from violence, God, God of my salvation, so that my tongue can sing of your righteousness. Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will proclaim your praise.

**People:** **You don't want sacrifices. If I gave an entirely burned offering, you wouldn't be pleased. A broken spirit is my sacrifice, God. You won't despise a heart, God, that is broken and crushed.**

SONG OF RESPONSE

**“Create in Me a Clean Heart”**

Keith Green

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

Cast me not away from thy presence, O Lord  
Take not thy Holy Spirit from me  
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation  
And renew a right spirit within me.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

***silence***

Pastor: Holy God, as the Ordinary season now turns to Lent, we pray that you will guide us in the days ahead. As we journey with Jesus Christ, give us an abiding sense of your presence, an unguarded sense of ourselves, and an awareness of the needs of this world. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

**Song: *Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.***

***Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart!***

Pastor: Loving God, as we are marked with the ashes of earth, we bring before you the frailty of our very human lives: the fragility of our health, the tenuousness of our accomplishments and plans, the changing nature of even our closest relationships. Grant us patience in suffering and healing from our ills. Give us, in equal measure, humility and hope in our pursuits. Bind us in covenantal love that is both constant yet able to change according to the needs and circumstances before us. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

***silence***

Pastor: Just God, you call us to loosen the bonds of injustice, to care for those in need, to lift the burdens that bind others. We ask you to increase our courage and our will to work for the freedom and peace you envision and demand. We pray for an end to warfare and conflict, accepting our calling to be peacemakers. We pray for an end to hunger and homelessness, knowing we are called to share our bread and to open our doors. We pray for an end to false righteousness, evil speech, and shallow piety in our lives, in the church, in our national life, and among all the nations. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

**Song: *Jesus Christ, Son of God,***

***Have mercy on me.***

Pastor: Forever God, we pray that your kingdom will come in fullness; that what is perishable will be raised imperishable; and that death itself will be swallowed up in victory; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**People: Amen.**

SONG

**“Bless the Lord, My Soul”**

Taizé Community

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God’s holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

SONG

**“Return to God”**

Marty Haugen

Return to God with all your heart,  
The Source of grace and mercy;  
Come seek the tender faithfulness of God.  
Now the time of grace has come, the day of salvation;  
Come and learn now the way of our God.  
Return to God with all your heart,  
The Source of grace and mercy;  
Come seek the tender faithfulness of God.  
I will take your heart of stone and place a heart within you,  
A heart of compassion and love.  
Return to God with all your heart,  
The Source of grace and mercy;  
Come seek the tender faithfulness of God.  
If you break the chains of oppression,  
If you set the prisoner free;  
If you share your bread with the hungry,  
Give protection to the lost; give a shelter to the homeless,  
Clothe the naked in your midst,  
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn.  
Return to God with all your heart,  
The Source of grace and mercy;  
Come seek the tender faithfulness of God.

ASH WEDNESDAY REFLECTION

Kathy Escobar

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

THE BLESSING OF ASHES

**Unison: Bless, O God, these ashes and those who receive them. Let them be for us a reminder of our mortality, a call to sincere repentance, and a testimony to your abundant mercy in Jesus Christ. Amen and amen.**

WORDS OF INVITATION AND INSTITUTION

## THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

*If you are worshipping via live stream, place a plate with bread or crackers in your home worship space.*

*Beside it set a cup with juice, wine, water, or other common beverage.*

*With these elements we celebrate the shared presence of Christ  
that connects and nourishes our communion of faith.*

*If you are worshipping in person, please come down the center aisle for the Imposition of Ashes  
and then choose to:*

*take a piece of bread from a tray and dip it into the chalice*

*OR take the bread from a tray and take an individual cup.*

*Return to your seat using the side aisles.*

*Pastors and servers will bring ashes and communion elements  
to the seats of those who cannot come forward.*

## COMMUNION SONG

### **“Consuming Fire”**

Tim Hughes

There must be more than this;  
O, breath of God, come breathe within;  
There must be more than this.  
Spirit of God, we wait for you;  
Fill us anew, we pray. Fill us anew, we pray;  
Consuming fire, fan into flame a passion for Your name;  
Spirit of God, fall in this place. Lord, have your way,  
Lord, have your way with us.  
Come like a rushing wind, fill us with power from on high.  
Now set the captives free,  
Leave us abandoned to Your praise.  
Lord, let your glory fall. Lord, let your glory fall.

## SILENT REFLECTION

## CLOSING SONG

### **“Lead Me to the Cross”**

Brooke Ligertwood

Savior, I come, quiet my soul,  
Remember redemption's hill  
Where Your blood was spilled for my ransom.  
Everything I once held dear, I count it all as loss.  
Lead me to the cross where Your love poured out.  
Bring me to my knees, Lord, I lay me down;  
Rid me of myself; I belong to you.  
Lead me, lead me to the cross.  
You were as I, tempted and tried,  
You are the Word became flesh,  
Bore my sin and death. Now You're risen  
Everything I once held dear, I count it all as loss.

## BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

Please depart in silence

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**Service Participants:**

Pastor Keith L. DeVries

Pastor Ivan N. Herman

Keith Atwater, Music Director

Trina Spivack, Piano

Jenny DeVries, Guitar and Vocal

Tara Calderon, Vocal

## **WELCOME TO ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP**

This worship service introduces us to the season of Lent, the 40 days leading up to Easter. Lent traditionally begins on Ash Wednesday, so named because of the ancient practice of wearing ashes as a sign of humility and repentance. This practice was employed by Christians to signify total dependence on God.

**The Imposition of Ashes** is the actual marking on the forehead in the form of a cross with ashes that come from the burning of palms used on the previous Palm Sunday.

**The Lord's Supper** will be celebrated tonight after receiving the imposition of ashes. Proceed down the center aisle to receive your ashes, partake of the Communion elements, and return to your seat using the side aisles.

**The Taizé Service** is a unique style of worship which includes periods of silence broken by brief readings of scripture and the singing of a certain style of music. Taizé music, largely written by members of the Taizé community, involves the use of simple, brief texts sung repetitively as a meditation. Taizé worship services are best when periods of silence are spent in meditation, reflection, contemplation, and prayer.

**The Liturgical Color of Purple** in our sanctuary is a visual reminder that we are now in the season of Lent. Lent is a journey which leads us to Jesus' final days, his death, and finally on Easter morning, his resurrection. May the traditional Lenten colors serve as a reminder that we are to observe a holy Lent through self-examination, penitence, prayer, works of love, and reading/meditating on the Word of God.

***Childcare is available in Room 102.***



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