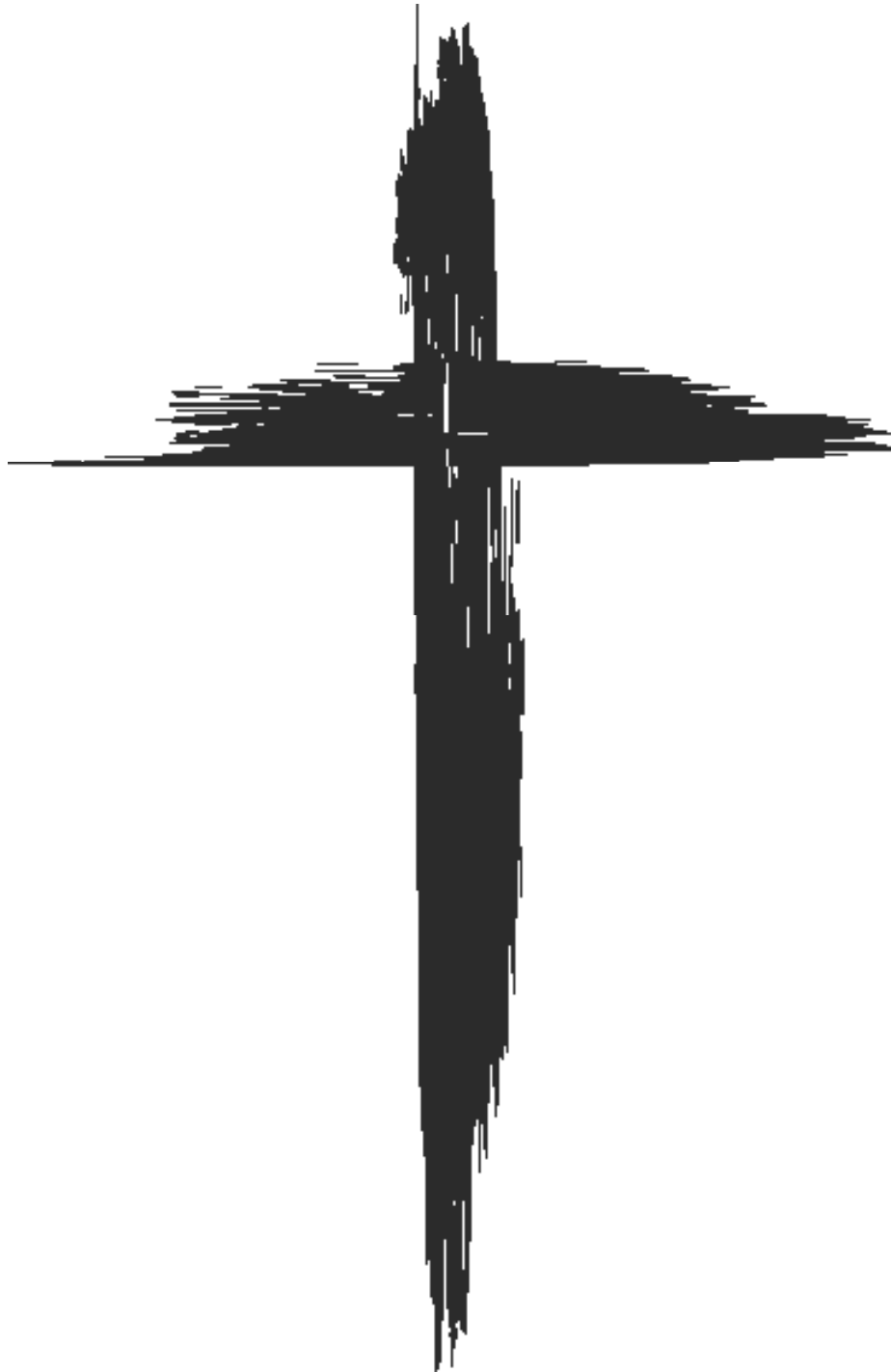

February 25, 2009

7:30 p.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY



PRELUDE I Stand at the Threshold *Johann Sebastian Bach*
from *Cantata No. 156*
All People Are Mortal *Johann Ludwig Krebs*
If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee *Sigfrid Karg-Elert*
Earth Prayers *Augusta Read Thomas*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.

People: **God's love endures forever.**

Minister: God is our refuge and our strength, a present help
in trouble. Therefore we will not fear
though the earth could change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
though the waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

People: **God's love endures forever.**

PRAYER FOR ASH WEDNESDAY (*unison*)

**Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed
into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you
and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts
of tenderness and strengthen us to face our mortality,
that we may reach with confidence for your mercy;
in Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WELCOME

***HYMN 83** "O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High"

Tune: DEO GRACIAS

FIRST LESSON Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21 (page 5, N.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM "Turn Thy Face from My Sins" *Arthur Sullivan*

Turn thy face from my sins and put out all my misdeeds.
Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit
within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; take not
thy Holy Spirit from me.

SECOND LESSON Isaiah 58:1–12 (page 647, O.T.)

**Stand as you are able.*

SERMON by John W. Vest
NOT WHAT WE WANT

***HYMN 240** “Out of the Depths” *Tune: AUS TIEFER NOT*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“The Lord Is My Shepherd” *John Rutter*

The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing. He shall feed me in a green pasture and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort. He shall convert my soul and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff comfort me. Thou shalt prepare a table for me against them that trouble me; thou hast anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full. But thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

PSALTER Psalm 51:1–17 (*responsively*) (page 492, O.T.)

LITANY OF PENITENCE

Minister: Let us pray.

People: **Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

Minister: We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

People: **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Minister: We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

People: **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Minister: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

People: **we confess to you, O God.**

Minister: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitations of others,

People: **we confess to you, O God.**

Minister: Our anger at our own frustration and
our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
People: **we confess to you, O God.**

Minister: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts and
our dishonesty in daily life and work,
People: **we confess to you, O God.**

Minister: Our negligence in prayer and worship and
our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
People: **we confess to you, O God.**

Minister: Accept our repentance, O God,
for the wrongs we have done.
For our neglect of human need and suffering
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
People: **accept our repentance, O God.**

Minister: For all false judgments,
for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,
and for our prejudice and contempt
toward those who differ from us,
People: **accept our repentance, O God.**

Minister: For our waste and pollution of your creation and
our lack of concern for those who come after us,
People: **accept our repentance, O God.**

Minister: Restore us, O God,
and let your anger depart from us.
People: **Favorably hear us, O God,
for your mercy is great.**

Minister: Accomplish in us, O God,
the work of your salvation
People: **that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

Minister: By the cross and passion of our Savior,
People: **bring us with all your saints
to the joy of Christ's resurrection. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION AND GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Minister: . . . who forever sing to the glory of your name:

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**
(sung) **heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One
who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Minister: . . . Great is the mystery of faith.

People: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Minister: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit . . .

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(unison)*

**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; and lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

THE COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(unison)*

**God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ you
reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example
of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts
and serve one another in holy love, through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.**

*HYMN 81 "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

Tune: ST. FLAVIAN

BENEDICTION

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*Those who wish are invited to come to either the front or back
of the sanctuary to receive ashes either on the back of the
hand or on the forehead. Ashes serve as a sign of human
mortality and penitence and as a reminder that only by God's
grace in Jesus Christ are we given eternal life. Ashes are
imposed with the words "Remember that you are dust, and
to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).*

DEPART IN SILENCE

WORSHIP LEADERS

John W. Vest Associate Pastor
Jocelyn C. Cadwallader Pastoral Resident
John W. W. Sherer Organist and Director of Music
Thomas E. Gouwens Associate Organist
The Chancel Choir
Steven Hartman Oboist

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is being received throughout Lent. Gifts to this offering support the work of the Presbyterian Self-Development of People Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, as well as the Chicago Lights Tutoring Program and Elam Davies Social Service Center. To make a “One Great Hour of Sharing” gift, use the envelopes in the pew racks or write “Lenten Offering” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

All are invited to set aside a time for worship each Wednesday evening of Lent. Weekly midweek services will be held at 6:30 p.m. in Blair Chapel beginning Wednesday, March 4. Daily devotions for Lent are available by e-mail (send addresses to devotions@fourthchurch.org), on the website www.fourthchurch.org, and in a printed booklet available in the church literature racks.

Inquirers’ Class offers an opportunity to explore Presbyterian history and beliefs. This one-session class is also a prerequisite for membership. Attend Monday, March 2 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.; or Sunday, March 22 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. For information about membership, contact Linda Loving, Minister for Evangelism, at 312.981.3399.

The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

John M. Buchanan, Pastor

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