

February 25, 2008

12:10 p.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY



INTROIT Prepare the Way of the Lord *Jacques Berthier*
Prepare the way of the Lord and all people
shall see the salvation of our God.

Leader: Deep echoes of the soul,
People: **voices of silence,**
Leader: inner nudges,
People: **persistent longing.**
Leader: It is the call of God,
People: **the pull of Lent,**
Leader: the season of reflection,
People: **the yearning for springtime joy,**
Leader: the thirst for living water,
People: **the desire for new life.**

***HYMN 409** “Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice”
Tune: ABERYSTWYTH

**Holy God, as we make our confession,
we say with Paul, “I do not understand
my own actions. For I do not do what I want,
but I do the very thing I hate.”
We admit our failure to be faithful followers
of Jesus, to do good we know.
We recognize that even as Jesus was tempted
in the wilderness, so are we tempted.
We doubt in our desert times of anguish or anger,
of disease or depression, injustice or oppression,**

**Stand as you are able.*

wondering if we are abandoned, if you really
can and will lead us through to waters of new life.
And when our spirits convict us,
when our sins taunt us and haunt us,
we are tempted to fall into self-condemnation,
unable or unwilling to hear and receive
the gospel we so desperately need.
Grant us the grace of making a true repentance,
and of receiving the gospel of salvation,
we pray. Amen.

PSALTER Psalm 51 (Hymn 196)
(Congregation sings the refrain)

FIRST LESSON Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 (page 798, O.T.)

SOLO “A Hymne to God the Father” *Pelham Humfrey*
Wilt thou forgive that sin where I begun, which is
my sin though it were done before? Wilt thou
forgive those sins through which I run and do
run still, though still I do deplore? When thou
hast done, thou hast not done, for I have more.
Wilt thou forgive that sin by which I’ve won others
to sin and made my sin their door? Wilt thou forgive
that sin which I did shun a year or two but wallowed
in a score? When thou hast done, thou hast not done,
for I have more. I have a sin of fear, that when I’ve
spun my last thread, I shall perish on the shore,
but swear by thyself that at my death thy sun shall
shine as he shines now and heretofore; and having
done that, thou hast done, I fear no more.

SECOND LESSON Mark 1:4–8 (page 32, N.T.)

A REFLECTION FOR ASH WEDNESDAY by Donna Gray
SOUND THE ALERT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

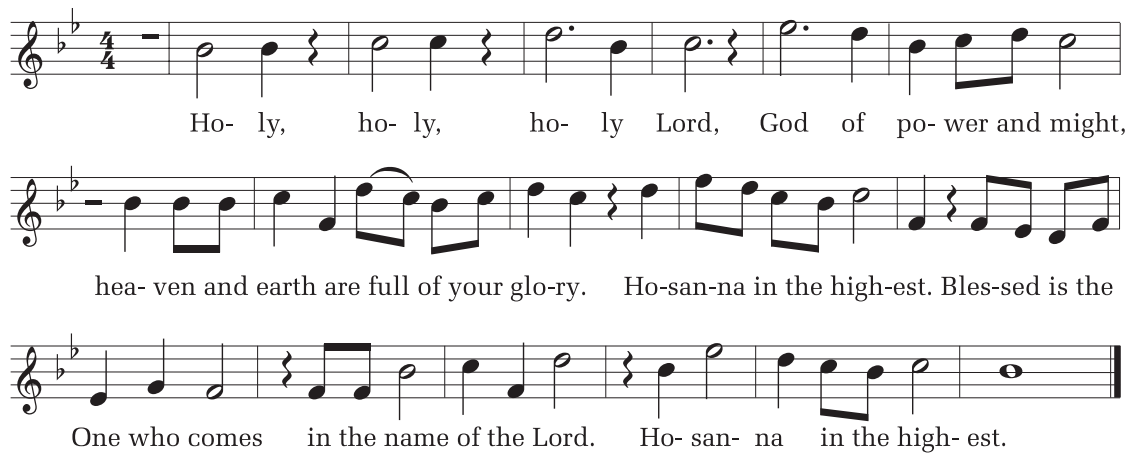
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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:



Ho- ly, ho- ly, ho- ly Lord, God of po- wer and might,
hea- ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bles-sed is the
One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san- na in the high- est.

Music: John W.W. Sherer; © 1997. Used by permission.

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

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY

“Create in Me, O God, a Clean Heart”

Johann Gottfried Walther

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(unison)*

O Christ the Master Carpenter, who, at the last, through wood and nails purchased our whole salvation, wield well your tools in the workshop of your world, so that we, who come rough hewn to your bench, may here be fashioned to a truer beauty of your hand. We ask it for your own name’s sake. Amen.

***HYMN 175** “The Lord's My Shepherd, All My Need”

Tune: EVAN

BENEDICTION

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Those who wish to are invited to receive ashes either on the back of the hand or on the forehead. Ashes serve as a sign of human mortality and of our penitence and as a reminder that only by God’s grace in Jesus Christ are we given everlasting 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

Donna Gray Associate Pastor

Terrill L. Stumpf Liturgist

John W. W. Sherer Organist

Carol Carpenter Soloist

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.

Fourth Church offers a variety of worship opportunities. In addition to Sunday morning services, a Vespers Communion service is held each Sunday at 6:30 p.m. Each weekday morning, Morning Prayer is held in Stone Chapel as a time to remember in prayer members of the Fourth Church congregation and those in need (9:30 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday; 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday). A Taizé service is held at 7:30 p.m. in Blair Chapel on the fourth Friday of each month.

Printed copies of sermons recently preached at Fourth Church are available in the literature racks outside the South Transept doors (leading to Anderson Hall) and in the Narthex, at the back of the sanctuary. They are also available at www.fourthchurch.org.

The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

John M. Buchanan, Pastor

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014; www.fourthchurch.org
312.787.4570; Staff extensions: 312.787.2729; Fax: 312.787.4584