

March 9, 2011

12:10 p.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY



PRELUDE Behold, I Stand at the Threshold *Johann Sebastian Bach*
All People Are Mortal *Johann Ludwig Krebs*
If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee *Sigfrid Karg-Elert*

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Joel 2:12–18*)

Minister: Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly; gather the people.

People: **Let us gather and sanctify all of this congregation—
young and old, male and female, joyful and sorrow-filled.**

Minister: This is a day of true repentance,
a time to return to God with all our hearts.

People: **We return to God in true repentance for all those things
which we have done that we should not have done
and those things we have left undone which we should
have done. We rend our hearts and not our garments.**

Minister: We seek God’s amazing forgiveness.

People: **We affirm that God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

***HYMN 83** “O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”

Tune: DEO GRACIAS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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

SECOND LESSON Mark 1:1–15 (page 32, N.T.)

A REFLECTION FOR ASH WEDNESDAY by John W. Vest
METANOIA

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

PSALM 51

Minister: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

People: **Wash me through and through from my
wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.**

Minister: For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

People: **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.**

Minister: And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgment.

People: **Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb.**

Minister: For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

People: **Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

Minister: Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.

People: **Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.**

Minister: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

People: **Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy Spirit from me.**

Minister: Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

People: **I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you.**

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

People: **Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Minister: Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

People: **The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

LITANY OF PENANCE

Minister: Let us pray.

People: **Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole community 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 exploitation of other people,

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

Minister: Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than we are,

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. Amen.**

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.**

***HYMN 85** “What Wondrous Love Is This” *Tune: WONDROUS LOVE*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO “Thou Art My Joy” *Johann Sebastian Bach*

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:

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
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.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(traditional)* (The Hymnal, page 16)

THE COMMUNION

COMMUNION SOLO “Brother James’ Air” *Phyllis Tate*

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).

WORSHIP LEADERS

John W. Vest Associate Pastor

Joyce Shin Associate Pastor

John W. W. Sherer Organist and Director of Music

Beena David Soloist

Throughout Lent, Fourth Church receives the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, which supports the work of Chicago Lights, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Gifts can be made using the envelopes found in the pew racks or by writing "One Great Hour of Sharing" on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

Daily Lenten devotions are available by email (send addresses to devotions@fourthchurch.org), Twitter (@FourthChicago), online at www.fourthchurch.org, and in printed booklets in the literature racks.

The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

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