

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

Victoria G. Curtiss Associate Pastor

Hardy H. Kim Associate Pastor

John W. W. Sherer Organist and Director of Music

Thomas E. Gouwens Associate Organist and
Handbell Director

Cole Seaton Soloist

The Chancel Choir

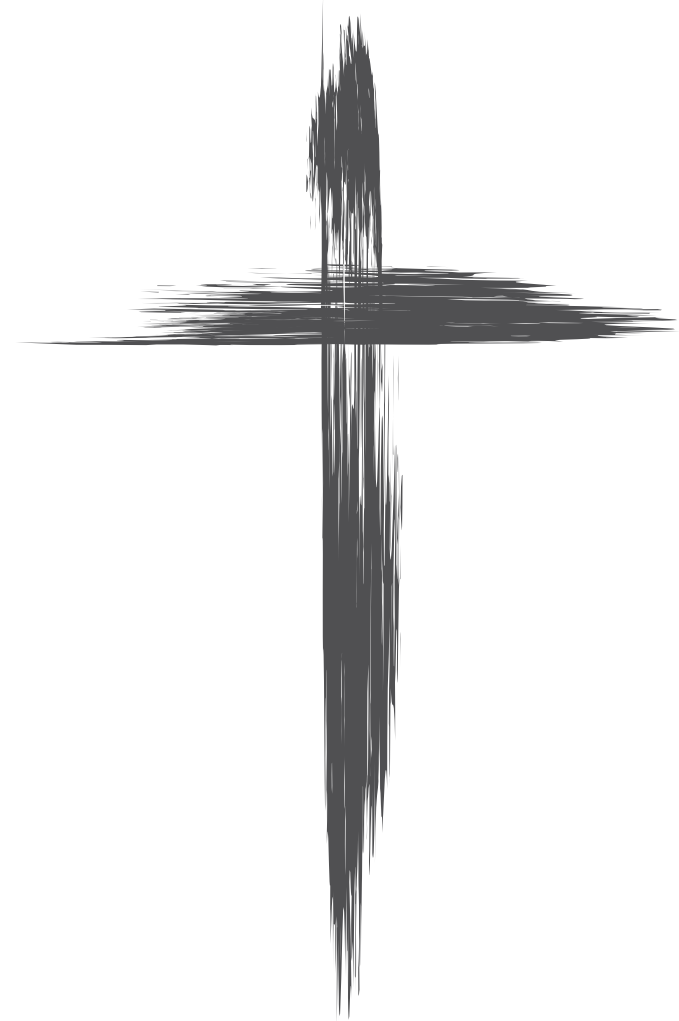
The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

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February 22, 2012

7:30 p.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY



PRELUDE Create in Me a Clean Heart *Johann Gottfried Walther*
Man's Days Are Like the Grass *Daniel Pinkham*
All People Are Mortal *Johann Sebastian Bach*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Behold, now is the acceptable time.
Today is the day of God's salvation.
People: **We tremble in fear and anticipation at the nearness
of a God so great and powerful.**

Minister: Return with all your heart,
with weeping, fasting and mourning.
People: **God is gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Minister: Be reconciled to God, through Jesus Christ,
and receive a new and right spirit within.
People: **We will fast and pray as an inner discipline,
preparing ourselves for faithful discipleship.**

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 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.**

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,
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

COMMUNION ANTHEM "Wondrous Love" *American folk hymn
arr. Paul Christiansen*

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, that caused the Lord
life to bear the heavy cross. What wondrous love is this, O my soul,
that Christ should lay aside his crown for my soul.

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;
and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.

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

SERMON Fasting that Pleases VICTORIA G. CURTISS

***HYMN 79** “Kind Maker of the World” *Tune: A LA VENUE DE NOËL*

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 PENANCE

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 exploitation of others. Our anger at our own
frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

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 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.**

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friend, believe the good news.

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**