



Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2015 • 7:30 p.m.

FOURTH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
A Light in the City

Prelude

- Draw Near with Faith. Malcolm Archer
- Elegy. Edward Bairstow
- Nearer My God to Thee. Sigfrid Karg-Elert

*Call to Worship

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

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

Minister: *God is our refuge and strength,
a present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth should change;*

People: **though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though the waters roar and foam,
God’s love endures forever.**

Minister: *Let us worship God.*

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 166 “Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days”

First Lesson

Isaiah 58:1–12 Old Testament, page 647

Anthem

“Nada te Turbe” John Warren
*Let nothing disturb you,
 nothing affright you;
 all things are passing,
 God never changes.
 Patient endurance
 attains unto all things.
 Who God possesses,
 in nothing is wanting;
 alone God suffices.*

Second Lesson

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21 New Testament, page 5

Reflection

Matters of the Heart Victoria G. Curtiss

*Hymn 618 “O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”

Offering

Offertory Anthem

“O Love Divine” Irish folk song
 arr. John Hudson

*O love divine, amazing love
 that brought to earth from heaven above
 the Son of God for us to die,
 that we might dwell on high.
 He died for you; he died for me
 and shed his blood to make us free.
 Upon the cross of Calvary,
 the Savior died for me.
 For us a crown of thorns he bore;
 for us a robe of scorn he wore.
 He conquered death and rent the grave
 and lives again our souls to save.
 O wanderer come, on him believe,
 his grace by faith receive.
 Awake, arise, and hear his call;
 the feast is spread for all.*

Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalms 51:1–17 Old Testament, page 492

Litany of Penitence

Minister: *Let us pray.*

All: 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 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.

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news.*

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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.

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 (*unison*)

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed by 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

“The Lord Is My Shepherd” from *Requiem*. 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.*

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 215 “What Wondrous Love Is This”

Blessing and Charge

Minister: *May the God of peace
make you holy in every way
and keep your whole being—
spirit, soul, and body—
free from every fault at the coming
of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

People: Amen.

Minister: *Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Imposition of Ashes

Following the Blessing and Charge, 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 of Genesis 3:19:

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

—Depart in silence—

This evening, Communion is served by intinction.

The congregation comes forward by the center aisle to receive the bread, which they then dip into the chalice of grape juice. (Gluten-free bread is available in a small tumbler in each basket of bread.)

Worshippers return to their pews by the side aisles.

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is not just for Presbyterians or “members of the church.” All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper.

Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ.

Worship Leaders

Hardy H. Kim, Victoria G. Curtiss

The Music Today

The Chancel Choir
Ryan Loeckel, Violinist
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

THE SEASON OF LENT calls Christians to embrace the faith journey by reflecting upon and deepening their relationship with God and by acting upon their Christian beliefs. Although often considered a time for giving up something as a way of symbolizing Jesus’ sacrifice and his struggle in the wilderness, the forty days of Lent also offer an opportunity for taking up. During this season, we are invited to thoughtfully take up the gifts of faith—worship, study, prayer, and service—in preparation for Holy Week and Christ’s journey to the cross.

FOURTH CHURCH OFFERS a variety of Lenten worship opportunities in addition to Sunday services. Lenten midweek services will be held on Wednesdays, February 25–March 25 at 6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. A Lenten Contemplative Retreat will be held Friday–Saturday, March 27–28 at the Well in La Grange Park. For more information, visit www.fourthchurch.org/lent-easter

DAILY LENTEN DEVOTIONS are available via Facebook (www.facebook.com/fourthchurch), Twitter (@FourthChicago), email (send addresses to devotions@fourthchurch.org), online (www.fourthchurch.org/devotions), and in printed booklets in the literature racks.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: Hymn tune names—as well as composers of the music and authors of the text—are listed in the hymnal with each hymn.

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Matt Helms Minister for Children and Families	Judith L. Watt Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
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This worship bulletin is printed on recyclable paper that contains recycled post-consumer waste and is acid free. All bulletins and inserts left in the baskets by the doors are recycled.

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