

# Ash Wednesday



February 17, 2021

7:30 p.m.

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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## Prelude

All People Are Mortal . . . . . Johann Sebastian Bach

Nearer, My God, to Thee . . . . . Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Introit # “Seek Ye the Lord” . . . . . Richard DeLong

*Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts, and let them return unto the Lord and he will have mercy upon them; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near. “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near.*

## Call to Worship

God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world,  
but that the world might be saved through him.  
God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
though the waters roar and foam;  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

## Prayer for the Day

Hymn . . . . . “There Is a Place of Quiet Rest”

There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God,  
a place where sin cannot molest, near to the heart of God.

### *Refrain*

O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,  
hold us, who wait before thee, near to the heart of God.

There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God,  
a place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God. *Refrain*

There is a place of full release, near to the heart of God,  
a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God. *Refrain*



Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson . . . . . Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

Solo :: “‘Irhamni Ya Allah” (Psalm 51) . . . . . Joseph Khalife

*Have mercy on me, my God; with your great mercy and your frequent compassion, please blot out my sins and mistakes. Have mercy on me, my God, wash me from my iniquity and purify me from my sins because I admit my faults and my mistakes. I have sinned and done evil things in front of you; do not cast me away from the front of your face. Do not take your Holy Spirit away from me, and protect me. Praise and glory belongs to you, my God.*

Sermon . . . . . Rocky Supinger

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: *Lift up your hearts.*

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

Leader: *Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.*

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Prayer

Leader: *It is truly right and our greatest joy . . . forever singing to the glory of your name:*

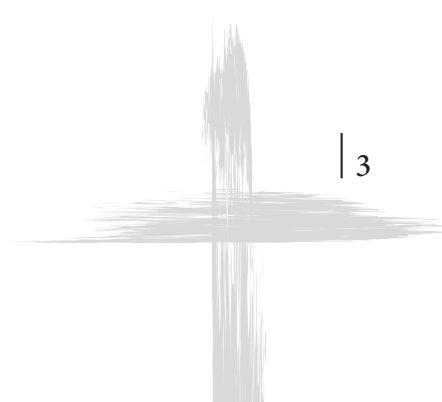
Sanctus (*sung*) . . . . . The Hymnal, 552

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: . . . *Great is the mystery of faith:*



Memorial Acclamation (*sung*) . . . . . The Hymnal, 553

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.  
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

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

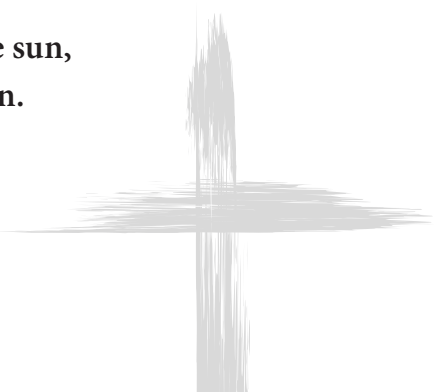
Communion Solo :: “Teach Me, Lord, to Wait” . . . . . Stuart Hamblen

*They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.  
Teach me, Lord, to wait down on my knees, till in your own good time you answer my pleas.  
Teach me not to rely on what others do but to wait in prayer for an answer from you.  
Teach me, Lord, to wait while hearts are aflame. Let me humble my pride and call on your name.  
Keep my faith renewed, my eyes on thee. Let me be on this earth what you want me to be.  
There’s a time and a season for all things, you promised in your word to answer my pleas.  
I’m crying to you, Lord, to grant sweet relief. O Lord, remove all my unbelief.*

Prayer after Communion

Hymn . . . . . “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.  
  
’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!  
  
Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.  
’Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
  
The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.  
  
When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.



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## An Invitation to Observe a Holy Lent

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Psalter ..... Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.  
Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.  
Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.  
Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.  
Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.  
Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.  
Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.  
Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.  
Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.  
Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.  
O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise.  
For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.  
You are not pleased with burnt offering.  
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.  
Favor Zion with your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem.  
Then you will delight in the appointed sacrifices, in burnt and whole offerings;  
then young bulls shall be offered upon your altar.

## Litany of Penitence

Leader: *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.  
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.

Leader: *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.

Leader: *We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness.  
For the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,*

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

Leader: *For our self-indulgent appetites and ways  
and our exploitation of other people,*

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

Leader: *For our anger at our own frustration  
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,*

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

Leader: *For our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,  
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,*

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

Leader: *For our negligence in prayer and worship,  
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,*

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

Leader: *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:** have mercy on us, O God.



Leader: *For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,  
and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,*

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

Leader: *For our waste and pollution of your creation  
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,*

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

Leader: *Restore us, O God of our salvation, and show us your steadfast love.*

**People:** Turn to us in your mercy and redeem us.

Hymn ..... “Forty Days and Forty Nights”

Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild;  
forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.

Shall not we your sorrow share and from worldly joys abstain,  
fasting with unceasing prayer, strong with you to suffer pain?

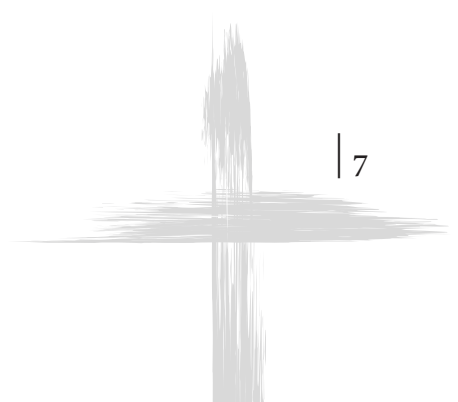
Then if Satan on us press, flesh or spirit to assail,  
victor in the wilderness, grant that we not faint nor fail!

So shall we have peace divine: holier gladness ours shall be;  
round us, too, shall angels shine, such as served you faithfully.

Keep, O keep us, Savior dear, ever constant by your side,  
that with you we may appear at the eternal Eastertide.

The Imposition of Ashes

Postlude ♯ Elegy ..... Edward Bairstow



## Worship Leaders

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Nanette Sawyer, David Handley, Rocky Supinger

## The Music Today

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Beena David, Soloist

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

## Worship Notes

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TODAY'S SOLO, "IRHAMNI YA ALLAH," is by Lebanese composer Joseph Khalife (b. 1960).

This setting of Psalm 51 is set in Arabic and uses the standard Arabic word for God, "Allah," which is used by Jews, Christians, and Muslims in Lebanon.

WE ARE CELEBRATING COMMUNION during worship today, and so we encourage you to have juice and a bread or cracker available during the service.

THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING is being received throughout Lent. Gifts to this offering support Chicago Lights Tutoring and Elam Davies Social Service Center; Fourth Church Meals Ministry; and the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Hunger, and Self-Development of People Programs. To make a "One Great Hour of Sharing" gift, you can designate "One Great Hour of Sharing" (OGHS) when giving at [fourthchurch.org/give-online](http://fourthchurch.org/give-online) or by writing that designation on the memo line of a check payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

DAILY LENTEN DEVOTIONS are available via Facebook ([www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](http://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)), Twitter (@FourthChicago), email (sign up at [www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions](http://www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions) or send email addresses to [devotions@fourthchurch.org](mailto:devotions@fourthchurch.org)), and online ([www.fourthchurch.org/devotions](http://www.fourthchurch.org/devotions)).

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**Shannon J. Kershner** Pastor

**Lucy Forster-Smith** Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

**Victoria G. Curtiss** Mission

**Matt Helms** Children and Family Ministry

**Nanette Sawyer** Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

**Rocky Supinger** Youth Ministry

**David Handley** Interim Minister for Pastoral Care

**Joseph L. Morrow** Minister for Evangelism

**Jeffrey Doane** Parish Associate for Older Adults

**Maggie Shreve** Parish Associate for Jail Ministry

**John Buchanan** Pastor Emeritus



**THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO**

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