



POTOMAC PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10301 River Road
Potomac, Maryland
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ASH WEDNESDAY

7:30 p.m.

February 17, 2021

GATHERING

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. On Ash Wednesday we recall our mortality and wait upon the Lord for a renewing Spirit. Ashes are a symbol of repentance and acknowledgement that we are always dependent on God. Lent is a time for putting aside the sins and failures of the past in the light of who we are yet to become by the grace of God. Each one of us is invited to observe a holy Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, almsgiving and by reading and meditating on God's word.

Prelude

I Call to You , Lord Jesus Christ

J. S. Bach

Welcome (Emily)

Call to Worship (Emily)

We come to worship God as Lent begins, aware of our frailty and failings.

We come seeking God's mercy, acknowledging our mortality.

Tonight, we are marked with ashes as a reminder for us that

the treasures of this earth do not last; God's love endures forever.

Hymn 433 (1-3)

Sign Us with Ashes

PHOENIX

As you listen to the music you may impose ashes on your forehead, or on the back of your hand and recall that, "you are dust and to dust you shall return."

**♪ Sign us with ashes, merciful God,
children of dust, as to dust we return.**

Sign us with ashes, merciful God.

Mark us and make us your own. †

CONFESSION

Invitation to Observe a Holy Lent

Psalm 51:1-17

Chris McAuliffe, M.Div.

The leader reads the odd verses, and the congregation reads the even verses.

¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

² **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ **Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,**

**so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgement.**

⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

⁶ **You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.**

¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

¹² **Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

¹⁴ **Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.**

¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

¹⁶ **For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt-offering, you would not be pleased.**

¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Anthem

Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy's Sake

Richard Farrant

PROCLAMATION

Readings (Emily)

Isaiah 58:1-12
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Meditation

Beatrice Laryea

SACRAMENT

Communion Hymn 530 *One Bread, One Body*

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (Emily & Chris)

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

You may have your bread and juice with you, pre-prepared, and may serve others nearby and serve yourself saying, "the bread of life" for the bread and "the cup of salvation" for the cup. For those seated in the pews you may remove your mask to take the elements.

Hymn 521

In Remembrance of Me

RED

Prayer after Communion (Emily)

Holy and merciful God, you created us from the dust of the earth.

You claim us as your own in the waters of baptism. You nourish us at your table. We enter these forty days bearing the mark of ashes, ready to journey through the Lenten wilderness. May our fasting be a hunger for justice; our alms, a marking of peace; our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Hymn 166

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

ST. FLAVIAN

Benediction (Beatrice)

Postlude

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

arr. Raymond Henry

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