

Ash Wednesday Service

OPENING THOUGHT

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent: A time of preparation in the life of every Christian. Many people fast from or give up something during the season of Lent. Others add a new spiritual practice like daily prayer, or service project, or bible reading, or commitment to become more involved. The idea is to try to build new, healthier living habits.

Tonight, the 3 wooded crosses which usually decorate our sanctuary during Lent will be placed on the high altar as we sing the song which weaves through the litany. Welcome to Lent!!

PRELUDE “Be Merciful to Me” -arr. J.S. Bach

LITANY FOR PLACING THE THREE CROSSES (*Sawyer Trexell*)

One: God, on those days when life seems too demanding with all its cares, burdens and concerns...

All: Jesus, grant me strength to carry our cross.

One: When I experience great loneliness deep inside and the pain of separation fills my spirit...

All: Jesus, grant me strength to carry our cross.

One: When I feel the pain of our world and unite in compassion with the Earth’s suffering people...

All: Jesus, grant me strength to carry our cross.

One: When I struggle with decision-making and the time comes to make good choices about my life...

All: Jesus, grant me strength to carry our cross.

ALL SING VERSE ONE OF #195 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

First Cross Placed

One: When I am with others in their physical pain or when I pray with one who has a terminal illness...

All: Jesus, grant me strength to carry our cross.

One: When I am asked to go the extra mile, to be generous with my time and my presence...

All: Jesus, grant me strength to carry our cross.

One: When I feel weary and worn out, when it seems like all my energy has been drained away...

All: Jesus, grant me strength to carry our cross.

One: When I am challenged to risk my security and to accept new growth in my relationship with you...

All: Jesus, grant me strength to carry our cross.

ALL SING VERSE TWO OF #195 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Second Cross Placed

One: When I experience the effects of aging or extended illness on my body or mind...

All: Jesus, grant me strength to carry our cross.

One: When I feel discouraged, desolate, and depressed and want to withdraw from others...

All: Jesus, grant me strength to carry our cross.

One: When worries and concerns choke my peacefulness and leave me with anxiety and fear...

All: Jesus, grant me strength to carry our cross.

One: When I harbor old wounds and are called to offer or to receive forgiveness...

All: Jesus, grant me strength to carry our cross.

ALL SING VERSES 3 & OF #195 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Third Cross Placed

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 58:1-12 (*Sawyer Trexell, Tessa Van hulle*)

MESSAGE “Burying the Alleluia” (Mason Schmidt)

(During the message Hannah McElrone and Shelby Keeku will hold the Alleluia, and as the sung response ends they will roll it up and bury it in a tomb which will be on display all during lent).

• RESPONSE #41 “Halle, Halle, Halle”

Halle-Halle-Halleluja. Halle-Halle-Halleluja.

Halle-Halle-Halleluja. Halleluja. Halleluja.

(Repeat as necessary)

TIME OF PRAYER

Ash Wednesday Prayer

(Hannah McElrone and Daniel Goto)

Lord’s Prayer – Skit Version

(Tessa Van Hulle and Sawyer Trexell)

THE OFFERING (Shelby Keeku)

Tonight, you are invited to place your offering in the baskets located outside the sanctuary as you leave worship. We thank you for making your offering and for participating in the Ash Wednesday Soup and worship service. Thanks to all who made soup, set up, served, cleaned up and helped with worship. Thanks to our amazing Confirmation class as we helped plan and lead worship tonight.)

CHORAL ANTHEM “O Lord, Have Mercy” -P. Liebergen

THE LORD’S SUPPER – Pastor Bill

*(Communion will be served by Intinction. You are invited to come forward, take a piece of gluten free bread and dip in a cup of wine (red) or grape juice (white). **You will receive the bread and cup in the center and the ashes are available if you choose near the side isles as you return to your seat.***

At Emanuel UCC we practice an open table so you do not have to be a member of this church, if you have come seeking a closer relationship with God through Jesus Christ you are invited to share in this sacrament. If you are unable to come forward a server will come to you.)

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Communion

Words of Institution

Hymn of Thanksgiving #111 *(Sung by all slowly as the first group moves forward)*

Santo, santo, santo. ¡Mi corazón te adora!

Mi corazón te sabe decir: ¡Santo eres Señor!

Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!

My heart knows how to say to you: Holy are you, Lord!

Sharing the Bread and the Cup (Shelby Keeku and Tessa Van Hulle)

Receiving the Ashes (Hannah McElrone and Sawyer Trexell)

Prayer of Thanksgiving *(In unison)*

We rejoice Great God in the power you offer us, and we pray that through this time of worship and sharing in this sacrament together we have been strengthened to make the journey through Lent. Help us live in Christ Jesus and share the abundant life he has given to everyone. Amen.

• SENDING HYMN “Awesome God” *(See insert)*

(Tessa Van Hulle will first teach us some simple hand gesture to do as we sing this familiar song.)

• COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION *(Pastor Bill with the whole class).*

POSTLUDE “Lamb of God Most Holy” -arr. D. Cherwien

Thanks to our 2020 Confirmation Class for their hard work planning and leading tonight's Ash Wednesday Worship service.

Class Members

*Hannah McElrone
Daniel Goto*

*Sawyer Trexell
Tessa Van Hulle*

*Mason Schmidt
Shelby Keeku*

Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.