



City Church

PHILADELPHIA

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Ash Wednesday

PREPARATION

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
All a broken and contrite heart, O God,
you will not despise.

from Psalm 51

A period of silence is kept.

Grace, mercy, and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All And also with you.

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
All because by your holy cross you redeem the world.

OPENING SONG

Come, Holy Spirit, Come - Benjamin Beddome, E.J. King

Come, Holy Spirit, come with energy divine,
and on this poor, benighted soul with beams of mercy shine.

Melt, melt this frozen heart; this stubborn will subdue;
each evil passion overcome, and form me all anew.

Mine will the profit be, but thine shall be the praise;
and unto thee will I devote the remnant of my days.

OPENING RESPONSORIAL

Bethany Brooks

Ho - ly God, ho - ly and strong,
ho - ly and im - mor - tal, have mer - cy on us.

Let us pray for grace this Lent, turning to Christ in faith.

Silence is kept

PRAYER

Holy God,
our lives are laid open before you:
rescue us from the chaos of sin
and through the death of your Son
bring us healing and make us whole
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

SONG

Jesus, Priceless Treasure - Franck, Crüger, Winkworth, Bach

Jesus, priceless treasure, source of purest pleasure,
truest friend to me.

Ah, how long in anguish shall my spirit languish,
yearning, Lord, for thee?

Thine I am, O spotless lamb! I will suffer naught to hide thee,
naught I ask beside Thee.

In thine arms I rest me; foes who would molest me
cannot reach me here.

though the earth be shaking, every heart be quaking,
Jesus calms my fear.

Lightnings flash and thunders crash;
yet, though sin and hell assail me,
Jesus will not fail me.

Satan, I defy thee; death, I now decry thee;
fear, I bid thee cease.

World, thou shalt not harm me nor thy threats alarm me
while I sing of peace.

God's great power guards every hour;
earth and all its depths adore him,
silent bow before him.

Hence with earthly treasure! Thou art all my pleasure,
Jesus, all my choice.

Hence, thou empty glory! Naught to me thy story,
told with tempting voice.

Pain or loss or shame or cross
shall not from my savior move me,
since he deigns to love me.

THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

¹Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—²a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come...¹²Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. ¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. ¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Silence is kept.

RESPONSE

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Lord is a great God,

O that today you would listen to his voice.

Harden not your hearts.

from Psalm 95

All Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Gospel reading: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

¹“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

REFLECTION

The Rev. Tuck Bartholomew

SONG OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

We Are Not Overcome – Robert Heiskell, Isaac Wardell

Flesh will fail, and bones will break;
thieves will steal, the earth will shake.
Night will fall, the light will fade;
the Lord will give and take away:

Because of his great love, we are not overcome!
Because of his great love, we are not overcome!

Put no trust in the earth,
in the sod you stand upon.
Flowers fade into dust;
the Lord will make a place for us:

Have no fear for your life;
turn your cheek! Turn your cheek!
Bear the yoke of love and death;
the Lord will give all life and breath:

SELF-EXAMINATION AND CONFESSION

Let us now call to mind our sin
and the infinite mercy of God.

God the Father,
All have mercy upon us.

God the Son,
All have mercy upon us.

God the Holy Spirit,
All have mercy upon us.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,
All have mercy upon us.

Members of the congregation lead us in the following prayers of self-examination:

From all evil and mischief;
from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy;
from envy, hatred, and malice;
and from all evil intent,
All good Lord, deliver us.

From sloth, worldliness and love of money;
from hardness of heart
and contempt for your word and your laws,
All good Lord, deliver us.

From sins of body and mind;
from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,
All good Lord, deliver us.

In all times of sorrow;
in all times of joy;
in the hour of death,
and at the day of judgment,
All good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;
by your birth, childhood and obedience;
by your baptism, fasting and temptation,
All good Lord, deliver us.

By your ministry in word and work;
by your mighty acts of power;
and by your preaching of the kingdom,
All **good Lord, deliver us.**

By your agony and trial;
by your cross and passion;
and by your precious death and burial,
All **good Lord, deliver us.**

By your mighty resurrection;
by your glorious ascension;
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,
All **good Lord, deliver us.**

The minister concludes:

Give us true repentance;
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance
and our deliberate sins;
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit
to examine our lives according to your holy word.

All **Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

the Trisagion

Silence is kept.

All **Make our hearts clean, O God;
and renew a right spirit within us.** *from Psalm 51*

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbor,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed,
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light.
Amen.**

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Dear friends in Christ,
I invite you to receive these ashes
as a sign of a spirit of penitence
during this season of Lent.

God our Father,
you create us from the dust of the earth:
may these ashes may be for us
a sign of our penitence
and a symbol of our mortality;
for it is by your grace alone
that we receive eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Savior.

All **Amen.**

Members of the congregations may come forward for the imposition of ashes.

Dust you are and to dust you shall return.

SONG

"Pie Jesu" - Maurice Duruflé

RESPONSE

This is love, not that we loved God,
All but that he loved us and sent his Son.
He is the sacrifice for our sins,
that we might live through him.
If God loves us so much
we ought to love one another.
If we love one another
God lives in us.

from 1 John 4:12

CLOSING SONG

There is a Fountain

William Cowper, Lowell Mason



1. There is a foun - tain filled with blood drawn
2. E'er since, by faith, I saw the stream your
3. Dear dy - ing Lamb, your pre - cious blood shall
4. When this poor lisp - ing, stamm'-ring tongue lies



from Em - man - uel's veins; and sin - ners plunged be -
flo - wing wounds sup - ply, re - deem - ing love has
ne - ver lose its pow'r till all the ran - somed
si - lent in_ the grave, then in a no - bler,



neath that flood lose all their guil - ty
been my theme, and_ shall be till I
church of God be_ saved, to sin no
sweet - er song, I'll_ sing your pow'r to



stains. Lose all their guil - ty stains,___ lose
die. And shall be till I die,___ and
more. Be saved, to sin no more,___ be
save. I'll sing your pow'r to save,___ I'll



all their guil - ty_ stains; and sin - ners plunged be -
shall be till I_ die; re - deem - ing love has
saved, to sin no more; till all the ran - somed
sing your pow'r to save; then in a no - bler,



neath that flood lose all their guil - ty stains.
been my theme, and shall be till I die.
church of God be_ saved, to sin no more.
sweet - er song, I'll sing your pow'r to save.

BLESSING AND SENDING

BENEDICTION

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Please depart quietly.

Chris Currie: liturgist

Bethany Brooks: piano, voice

Naomi Gray: cello

Please visit citychurchphilly.com and subscribe
to our newsletter for more information about
community life and church events.

City Church CCLI License #2772464.

Scriptures quoted from the NRSV bible ©1989 NCCUSA.