

Welcome to Philadelphia UMC

February 22, 2023



ENTER IN SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Joel 12:12-14

L: "Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.

P: Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord Your God,

L: for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.

P: Come, let us worship the Lord.

OPENING PRAYER Psalm 103:8-14, New Jerusalem Bible Analiyah Scully
The Lord is tenderness and pity, slow to anger and rich in faithful love; His indignation does not last forever, nor his resentment remain for all time; He does not treat us as our sins deserve, nor repay us as befits our offenses. As the height of heaven above earth, so strong is His faithful love for those who revere him. As the distance of east from west, so far from us does he put our faults. As tenderly as a father treats his children, so the Lord treats those who revere him; He knows of what we are made, he remembers that we are dust.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

Psalm 100:1-5

Hart Teska

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:1-6

GOSPEL LESSON

"A Sheep's Ear"

Rev. Kathy Pryor

INVITATION TO LENTEN DISCIPLINE

The early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection with a forty-day season of spiritual preparation. It was a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church.

In this way the whole congregation was reminded of mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Holy Church, to observe a holy

Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

THANKSGIVING over the ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Doug Peterson and Rev. Kathy Pryor

Genesis 3:19, "*Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.*"
(You are invited to come forward and receive the imposition of ashes as a sign of our morality and repentance and a reminder of God's gift of eternal life. Feel free to either come or to simply observe.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Psalm 51:1-2, 7-12

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

OFFERING OF OUR SINS (A brief silence is kept, the congregation is bowed)

DECLARATION OF PARDON

L: In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

P: In Jesus Christ, we all have peace. Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT "*Come Thy Fount of Every Blessing*" UMH #400

BENEDICTION

Go in peace, to love and serve God and your neighbor.

*THE POSTLUDE

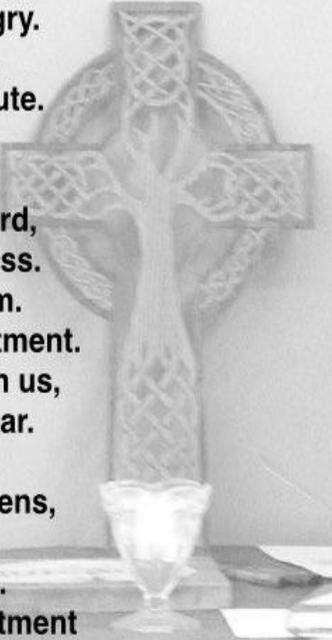
**Those who are able, please stand.*

Reminders:

Masks are available for everyone while inside the church buildings. If anyone present at worship should test positive for COVID 19, has been exposed to someone who has tested positive to COVID 19; feels like they have COVID 19 symptoms; is awaiting test results for COVID 19, please notify the pastor. The individual and their immediate family should not attend in person worship or other church activities for 5 days until they receive a negative COVID 19 test.

We have chosen to fast,
Not only with ashes but with actions,
Not with sackcloth but in sharing,
Not in thoughts but in deeds.
Let the ashes speak of our commitment.
We will give up our abundance,
To share our food with the hungry.
We will give up our comfort,
To provide homes for the destitute.
We will give up our fashions,
To see the naked clothed.
We will share where others hoard,
We will free where others oppress.
We will heal where others harm.
Let the ashes speak of our commitment.
Then God's light will break out on us,
God's healing will quickly appear.
God will guide us always,
We will be like well watered gardens,
Repairers of broken walls,
Builders of sustainable cities.
Let the ashes speak of our commitment
To God's ways and God's purposes.
A new world coming,
Where we will feast together,
at God's banquet table.

Christine Sine <http://godspace-msa.com>



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