

Grace Episcopal Church

Ash Wednesday

March 6, 2019 | 10:30am & 7pm

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Priest Associate | Kate Kinney

Music | Martin Cockroft



"Seeking Grace" by Elizabeth Van Duine

Mercy would be a beginning, so mercy it is, the first word
to rumble out of the ground,
to run up, bitter or pure, from a struck open rock.

Hover down, mercy, like a shadow, a long-legged
shadow to secret bodies from the sun.

An outcropped rock curls like a hand,
a hollow to hide in, a hollow to die in.

Mercy begins in a desert, runs under bedrock.

Mercy takes a deep drill to vibrate loose.

Mercy juts up sharp and unexpected,
cuts a trench to catch a downpour,
low as a gash in the landscape can be
before becoming a canyon, a gorge, a riverbed.

Justice punctures too deep, rises too high,
ruins the way for mercy.

So begin. Crack open the earth's crust like bread,
and ask again for a hard mercy to rise
between soft hands.

~David Wright
From A Liturgy for Stones

Gathering Song | Simple Gifts *Instrumental*

Music: Joseph Brackett

Cellists at 7pm service: Isaac Hanto and Carson Farley

We remain seated. A bell will ring.

After a period of quiet the Celebrant says,

God's mercy endures forever.

The people respond

Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy
on us. Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy,
Lord, have mer - cy, on us.

The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Lead us to you, God of goodness. Form in us new and contrite hearts that we may know the joy of your forgiveness and the wonder of your love. **Amen.**

We are seated for the first reading.

The First Reading | 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?

(Reading continues on following page.)

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.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We remain seated and say the Psalm.

Psalm | 103:1-14

Praise the Lord O my soul
and all that is within me praise God's holy name.

**Praise the Lord O my soul
and forget not all that God has done for you.**

The Lord forgives you all your sin
and heals you of all your infirmities.

**The Lord saves your life from the grave
and crowns you with love and mercy.**

The Lord fills your life with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**You Lord are righteous in your acts
and bring justice to all that are oppressed.**

You showed your ways to Moses
your deeds to the children of Israel.

**You are full of compassion and mercy
slow to anger and rich in kindness.**

You will not always be chiding
nor do you keep your anger for ever.

**You have not dealt with us according to our sins
nor punished us according to our wickedness.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth
so great is your mercy over those who fear you.

**As far as the east is from the west
so far have you put away our sins from us.**

As parents have compassion on their children
so do you Lord
have compassion on those who fear you.

**For you know what we are made of
you remember that we are but dust.**

We stand together and sing

Gospel Song | Fast and Pray in Quiet Places

by Martin Cockroft

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 6/8 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics 'Fast and pray in quiet places' are written below the notes. The second staff begins with a '3' above the treble clef, indicating a triplet. The melody consists of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics 'Fast and pray in quiet places' are written below the notes.

The Celebrant then introduces the Gospel by saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you Lord Christ.

The Gospel | Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Jesus said, “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. So 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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 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. But 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. 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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so 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. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

After the Gospel, the Celebrant will say

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

The Invitation

The Celebrant invites the people into the season of Lent, then says

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, that we may remember that it is by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We gather in a circle. Ashes are imposed with the following words
Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

After ashes are imposed, we are seated and sing

Lay Me Low

By Daniel Schwandt

**Lay me low where the Lord can find me.
Lay me low where the Lord can hold me.
Lay me low where the Lord can bless me.
Lay me low, Lord me low.**

We stand and pray together.

All Merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

Celebrant We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

All **We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.**

Celebrant We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us.
O God of life,

All **we confess our self-indulgence and our exploitation of others.**

Celebrant God of love,

All **we confess our pride, hypocrisy, and impatience.**

Celebrant God of kindness,

All **we confess our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those around us.**

Celebrant God of generosity,
All we confess our greed and dishonesty in daily life and work.

Celebrant God of hope,
All we confess our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us.

Celebrant God of compassion,
All we confess our blindness to human need, our indifference to injustice and cruelty, our prejudice and contempt.

Celebrant God of mercy,
All forgive us.

Celebrant Restore us to you.
All Work your goodness within us.

We sing together

Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy,
 Lord, have mer - cy, on us.

Celebrant Strengthen us to fast from judgment
All and grow in compassion,

Celebrant fast from fear
All and grow in generosity,

Celebrant fast from apathy
All and grow in encouragement,

Celebrant fast from discontent
All and grow in gratitude,

Celebrant fast from distraction
All and grow in attention,

Celebrant fast from discouragement
All and grow in hope,

Celebrant fast from resentment
All and grow in love.

We sing together

Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy
on _____ us. Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy,
Lord, have mer - cy, on _____ us.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant You are forgiven, be at peace.

We respond then say to one another

All You are forgiven, be at peace.

Offertory Song | You Are Forgiven

by Ann Strickland

5 You are for - giv - en, be at peace.
9 You are for - giv - en, be at peace.
13 You are for - giv - en, be at peace.
You are for - giv - en, be at peace.

We stand as the table is set with the gifts of our hearts and hands.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

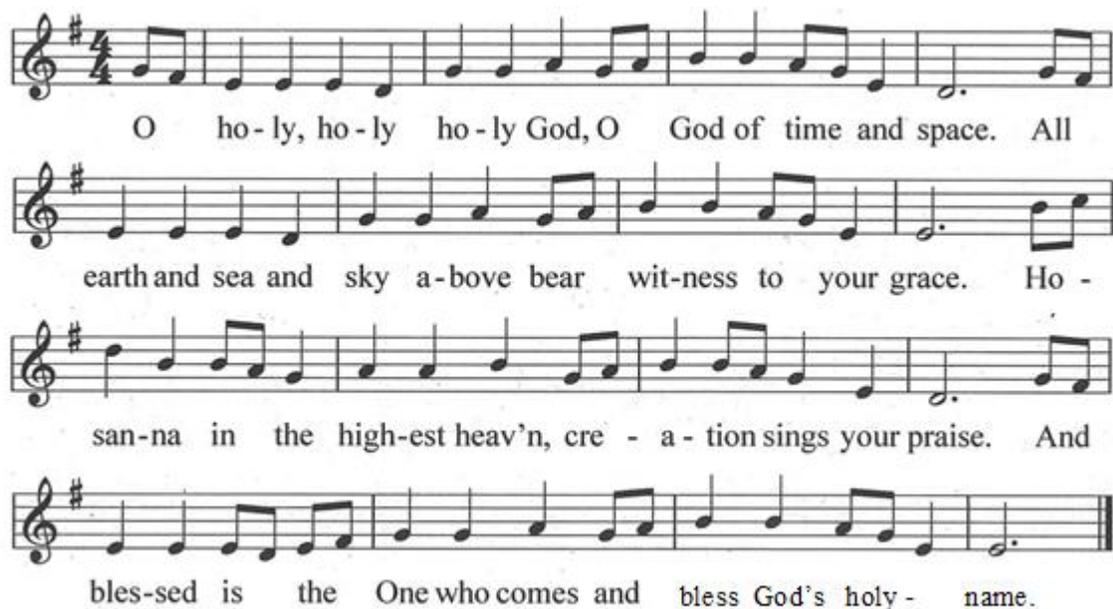
Celebrant It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Sanctus

Words: W.S. Kervin & P. Stott. Music: trad. melody, England & Ireland.



O ho-ly, ho-ly ho-ly God, O God of time and space. All
earth and sea and sky a-bove bear wit-ness to your grace. Ho -
san-na in the high-est heav'n, cre - a - tion sings your praise. And
bles-sed is the One who comes and bless God's holy - name.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died.
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.**

The Celebrant continues

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

We are now invited to share the gifts of Communion.

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast!

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Music During Communion | Within Our Darkest Night

Words: Taizé Community | Music: Jacques Berthier

With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the
fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a -
way. With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the
fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a - way.

Kingdom of God

by the Taizé Community

The king - dom of God is jus - tice and peace and
joy in the Ho - ly Spir - it. Come, Lord, and
o - pen in us the gates of your king - dom.

What Wondrous Love

by Ann Strickland

What won-drous love is this? What won-drous love is this?

3
What won-drous love is this?— O my soul. O my soul.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats. The first staff contains two measures of music with lyrics 'What won-drous love is this?'. The second staff begins with a triplet of three eighth notes, followed by a measure with a fermata, and then two more measures with lyrics 'O my soul.'.

*Following Communion we share silence with one another.
The quiet will last a few minutes and will begin and end with a bell.*

Song After Communion | All That We Have is Yours

by Martin Cockroft

Where can we go? What do we o - wn? All

3
that we have is yours

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 7/4 time with a key signature of one sharp. The first staff contains two measures of music with lyrics 'Where can we go?' and 'What do we o - wn? All'. The second staff begins with a triplet of three eighth notes, followed by a measure with a fermata, and then four measures with lyrics 'that we have is yours'.

Our Prayer after Communion

We stand and say together

**Eternal God,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

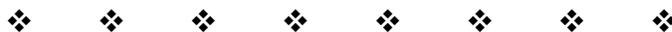
The Blessing

May you find yourself surrounded, hemmed in by God's love. The blessing of God be upon you, Christ's peace be with you, and the Spirit's outpouring overflow in your life today and always. Amen.

Dismissal

Celebrant
People

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



Late Fragment

And did you get what
you wanted from this life, even so?
I did.
And what did you want?
To call myself beloved, to feel myself
beloved on the earth.

~ *Raymond Carver*

Blessed sister, holy mother, spirit of the fountain, spirit of the garden,
Suffer us not to mock ourselves with falsehood
Teach us to care and not to care
Teach us to sit still
Even among these rocks,
Our peace in His will
And even among these rocks
Sister, mother
And spirit of the river, spirit of the sea,
Suffer me not to be separated

And let my cry come unto Thee.

~ T.S. Eliot, *from Ash Wednesday*