

# Grace Episcopal Church

Ash Wednesday

February 26 | 10:30am & 7pm

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Music | Martin Cockroft



*"Blessing the Dust" Jan Richardson*

## Ash Wednesday

It is said there are over hundred billion quiet black holes  
in our galaxy, but I can see past the smudge where  
water and ash meet in the bowl before the priest  
thumps a cross on my forehead and I wonder if nebulas ever  
stretch their light, that is to say send out photons to the four  
directions of our earthly compass, but lately my three plus  
one dimensional mindset's been reset. Forgive me.  
I didn't see what lay curled in front of me, I was busy  
reading and doing things easily forgotten. Absolve me,  
even now I've forgotten the weight of ash. It is said  
that for these forty days we're invited to look in-  
ward, to the depths of our hearts and also out-  
ward to our neighboring stars, those to whom we nod  
and pay little heed. Forgive me. Maybe now we can rub  
the ash from our skin, scrub what we've neglected from our  
windows toward a clearer view. I'm sure there are dimensions  
within me, waiting to be uncurled, tendrils, little branches  
seeking light, while at the same time blessing dust.

*~Ronda Pizsk Broatch*

We are seated. A bell will ring.

After a period of quiet the Celebrant says,  
God's mercy endures forever.

The people respond

## Bless the Lord My Soul

Words: Psalm 103 | Music: Jacques Berthier



Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.



Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

## The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

God of kindness, you love everything that you have made. Thank you for loving us. Form in us open, humble, and contrite hearts, that we may know the joy of your forgiveness and the wonder of your love. **Amen.**

We remain seated and say the Psalm.

## Psalm | 103:8-14

From the New Zealand Prayer Book

**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

1.  
Fast and pray in quiet spaces

2.  
quiet spaces

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 to all in the circle, 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.

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 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*

The image shows a musical score for three voices. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 12/8. The lyrics are: "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 lyrics are written below the musical staves, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing.

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

You are for - giv - en, be at peace.

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.

*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:

*Caroline Clucas*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly; Lord God of all.

Heav'n and earth re - joice in your wond - drous love

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 We are one bread, one body;

People **We will love one another as Christ loves us.**

## Music During Communion | What Wondrous Love

*by Ann Strickland*

3

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

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 (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The first staff contains two measures of music with lyrics 'What won-drous love is this?' repeated. The second staff starts with a '3' above the first measure, indicating a triplet, and contains three measures of music with lyrics 'What won-drous love is this?— O my soul. O my soul.' The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

# Open My Heart

by Ana Hernandez

Two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The melody is written in treble clef. The lyrics are: O - pen my heart, \_\_\_\_\_ o - pen my heart. \_\_\_\_\_

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

## 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.**

# Closing Song | Send Now Your Servants

by Chad McKenna



Send now your ser - vants, send now your ser - vants,



send now your ser - vants, Lord. Our eyes have seen\_\_\_\_  
Our tongues have tast - ed  
Our ears have heard\_\_\_\_  
God has giv - en



sal - va - tion here. Now send your ser - vants in peace.  
sal - va - tion here.  
sal - va - tion here.  
sal - va - tion here.

## Dismissal

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



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*