



The Anglican Church of Canada
Christ Church Anglican, Meaford
is committed to live in a generous and loving spirit in all its relationships.
"We are gathered together on the territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation."

February 17, 2021

Ash Wednesday

Online Service of the Word Bulletin, 10:00am
By Google Meets



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Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Doth its successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to
shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no
more.

People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on his love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
The prisoners leap to lose their
chains;
The weary find eternal rest,
And all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring
peculiar honours to our King,
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud Amen.

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

The community prays in silence.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: Almighty and everlasting
God, you despise nothing you have
made and forgive the sins of all who
are penitent.

Create and make in us new and
contrite hearts, that we, worthily

lamenting our sins and acknowledging
our brokenness, may obtain of you,
the God of all mercy, perfect
remission and forgiveness; through
Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

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. ²Yet 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.

³"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. ⁴Look, 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. ⁵Is 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? ⁶Is 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? ⁷Is 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? ⁸Then 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. ⁹Then 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, ¹⁰if 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. ¹¹The 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. ¹²Your 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.

Psalm 103:8-18

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

God will not always accuse, nor keep anger for ever.

God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,

so great is God's steadfast love; as far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our transgressions from us.

As a parent has compassion for their children, so the Lord has compassion. For God knows how we were made; God remembers that we are dust.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

20b we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6 As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 2 For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! 3 We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4 but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way:

through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5 beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; 6 by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, 7 truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8 in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; 9 as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; 10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Gradual Hymn Eternal, Unchanging (vs1,2) CP#394

Eternal, unchanging, we sing to your praise,
Your mercies are endless, and righteous your ways;
Your servants proclaim the renown of your name,
You rule in omnipotence ever the same.

Again we rejoice in the world you have made,
Your mighty creation in beauty arrayed;
We thank you for life, and we praise you for joy,
For love and for hope that no power can destroy.

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

"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. 2" 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. 3

But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so 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. 6 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.

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. 17 But when you fast,

put oil on your head and wash your face, 18 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.

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

Gradual Hymn Eternal, Unchanging (vs 3)

CP#394

We praise you for Jesus, our Master and Lord,
The might of his Spirit, the truth of his word,

His comfort in sorrow, his patience in pain,
The faith sure and steadfast that Jesus shall reign.

Homily:

John Howard

Dear friends in Christ, every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery.

We begin this holy season by remembering our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes, an ancient sign, speaking of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marking the penitence of the community as a whole.

We are invited therefore, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and alms giving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God.

Let us bow before our Creator and Redeemer.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Psalm 51:1-18

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offences.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

Create in me a clean heart, O God.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

Create in me a clean heart, O God.

And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgement. Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb.

Create in me a clean heart, O God.

For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Litany of Penitence

**All: Most holy and merciful Father,
we confess to you, to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints
in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault
in thought, word, and deed;
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.**

Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you.

Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation. Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

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

Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Presider: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

We confess to you, Lord.

Presider: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord,

All: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy on us,

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

That we may show forth your glory in the world.

Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you have created us. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given eternal life;

through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

**forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen us in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit
keep us in eternal life.
Amen.**

Closing Hymn: I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

CP#508

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary,
worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and
he has made me glad.

2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold I freely give the living
water; thirsty one, stoop down and
drink and live."

I came to Jesus and I drank of that
life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul
revived, and now I live in him.

3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
Look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright."
I looked to Jesus and I found in him
my star, my sun; and in that light of
life I'll walk till travelling days are
done.

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