

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH

March 2, 2022

Ash Wednesday



***Growing and Deepening our Spiritual Lives in an
Affirming and Inclusive community***

Welcome to St. David's United Church

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Presiding: Amy Haynes

We gather in faith as a Christ-infused church

(Welcome to worship today. Whether you are worshipping with us today for the first time or you have been here for longer than you can remember, you are welcome to be here and to participate however you feel comfortable. Regardless of your age, stage, gender, sexual identity, or how great or small you feel your faith is we each bring something of ourselves to this sacred space. God welcomes each of us to worship.)

PRELUDE *Aus Tiefer Not (Out of the Depths) Johann Pachelbel*

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

CALL TO REPENTANCE

On this first day of Lent
we pause,
look within
and examine our consciousness.
**Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your steadfast love.**

Where we have neglected prayer,
been apathetic in worship,
found reasons to avoid generosity,
or lacked compassion:
**Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your steadfast love.**

Where we have colluded
in the oppression of those
who become invisible in their suffering,
and ignored on the streets:
**Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your steadfast love.**

Where anxiety has eroded the gift of your peace,
and where we have cared too much about what others think:
**Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your steadfast love.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

As Lent begins,
know that God understands how we struggle
to stay open and compassionate.
The invitation is not to focus on our inadequacies,
but on God's gift of grace and love
which transforms our hearts and minds.
That gift is given to us again, here and now.
Be encouraged.

May the peace of God be with you
and also with you.

HYMN

If I Have Been the Source of Pain

MV #76

*If I have been the source of pain, O God;
If to the weak I have refused my strength;
If, in rebellion, I have strayed away;
Forgive me, God.*

*If I have spoken words of cruelty;
If I have left some suffering unrelieved;
Condemn not my insensitivity;
Forgive me, God.*

*If I've insisted on a peaceful life,
Far from the struggles that the gospel brings,
When you prefer to guide me to the strife,
Forgive me, God.*

*Receive, O God, this ardent word of prayer,
And free me from temptation's subtle snare,
With tender patience, lead me to your care.
Amen, Amen.*

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 58:1-12, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

After each "God of Mercy, forgive us." the refrain from **MV #77**
Be Still and Know will be sung by the choir and the congregation.

**Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.**

TIME OF SILENCE

HYMN When We Are Tested

MV #65

When we are tested and wrestle alone,
Famished for bread when the world offers stone,
Nourish us, God, by your word and your way,
Food that sustains us by night and by day.

When in the desert we cry for relief,
Pleading for paths marked by certain belief,
Lift us to love you beyond sigh and test,
Trusting your presence, our only true rest.

When we are tempted to barter our souls,
Trading the truth for the pow'r to control,
Teach us to worship and praise only you,
Seeking your will in the work that we do.

When we have struggled and searched through the night,
Sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
Saviour, surround us with circles of care,
Angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.

REFLECTIVE PRAYER

SECOND PRAYER OF CONFESSION/RITUAL OF LETTING GO

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us your peace.

QUENCHING OF THE ASHES

These ashes remind us of our frailty and our mortality.
The water of baptism proclaims the grace of The Holy One.
The mark we bear calls us to walk the narrow path of the cross.

God or creator, you have formed us out of the dust of the cosmos and the earth, our Mother. May these ashes be to us a sign of our mortality and penance, so that we may remember that it is by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life and forgiveness; through our brother and saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE MARK OF THE ASHES

Response to receiving the mark of the ashes is 'Amen'

ANTHEM

Kyrie

Christoph Dalitz

Translation: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, Have mercy.

BLESSING

Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether, the past is finished and gone, everything is renewed and refreshed.

Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine! Glory to God from generation to generation, in the world in the church, and in our lives!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Improvisation*

**THANKS TO THOSE ASSISTING WITH OUR
WORSHIP EXPERIENCE**

Music.....Mixed Ensemble
PSALT & Tech Team
Sacred Service & Worship Committee