

# Ash Wednesday

## Online Service of Worship

February 17, 2021

5:45 pm

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.  
Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.  
Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,  
O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance  
O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.  
For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.  
The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

—Psalms 51:10-17

2b

LOVE. ALL. NOW.

# Ash Wednesday

Parking Lot Service of Worship

February 17, 2021

5:45 pm

GATHERING MUSIC

Marilyn Arland and Larry Landusky

WELCOME

Sheryl Gallarneau

## *Self-Examination*

MEDITATION ON ASH WEDNESDAY

Sheryl Gallarneau and Scott Herrington

*Friends, we begin today our journey toward Easter. We enter the Lenten season to prepare ourselves to welcome the risen One with lives renewed by the breath of the Spirit.*

**God of our salvation, we long to be reconciled to you. We assume the disciplines of self-examination, confession, and penitence. Increase in us knowledge and patience, kindness and holiness of spirit, genuine love and truthful speech, so that, by the power of God at work in us, we may live even as we are dying and rejoice even in our sorrows. We seek to be faithful disciples of Christ.**

\*OPENING HYMN

ST. PETER

*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains four vocal parts with lyrics. The second system continues the vocal parts with lyrics. The music is written in a traditional hymn style with block chords and simple melodic lines.

1. Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,  
2. As Thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend, and didst the vic - tory win,  
3. And through these days of pen - i tence, and through Thy pas - sion - tide,  
4. A - bid with us, that so, this life of suf - fering o - ver - past

Teach us, with Thee, to mourn our sins and close by Thee to stay.  
Oh give us strength in Thee to fight, in Thee to con - quer sin.  
Yea, ev - er - more in life and death, Je - su, with us a - bid.  
An Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

# Confession

## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Jake Maxwell

Lord, we confess our sins before you.

We confess that we have fallen short of your glory and your intent for our lives.

Open our eyes that we may see ourselves with clarity and truthfulness,  
that we may have eyes to see all of that within us that is not pleasing to you.

### ***(silent prayers)***

*I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord;  
no tender voice like thine can peace afford*

*I need thee, O I need thee;  
every hour I need thee!  
O bless me now, my Savior,  
I come to thee.*

Lord, we confess to you that we have not loved as we ought.

We have been impatient with others with whom we could have been patient.

We have disregarded those you have called us to serve.

We have chosen the selfish way when you have called us to selflessness.

### ***(silent prayers)***

*I need thee, O I need thee;  
every hour I need thee!  
O bless me now, my Savior,  
I come to thee.*

Lord, we confess that we have not tended to the care of our souls.  
We have been too busy to pray.  
We have been too quick to speak and too slow to listen for you.  
We have filled our lives with all kinds of noise instead of patiently waiting  
like sheep for our shepherd's voice.

***(silent prayers)***

*I need thee, O I need thee;  
every hour I need thee!  
O bless me now, my Savior,  
I come to thee.*

Lord, we confess our need of you.  
We need your grace.  
We need your patience.  
We need your guidance.  
We cannot see beyond the moment.  
We cannot worship you as we ought.  
As we begin this solemn journey toward the cross,  
we call upon your mercy and your love, for our salvation.

***(silent prayers)***

*I need thee, O I need thee;  
every hour I need thee!  
O bless me now, my Savior,  
I come to thee.*

# Penitence

SONG OF PENITENCE

CHANGE MY HEART

## Change My Heart, O God

Change my heart, oh God. \_\_\_\_ Make it ev - er true. \_\_\_\_

Change my heart, oh God. \_\_\_\_ May I be like You. \_\_\_\_

**VERSE**

You are the pot - ter. I \_\_\_\_ am the clay.

Mold me and make \_\_\_\_ me. This is what I pray. \_\_\_\_

**CHORUS 1b**

Change my heart, oh God. \_\_\_\_ Make it ev - er true. \_\_\_\_

Change my heart, oh God. \_\_\_\_ May I be like You. \_\_\_\_

Eddie Espinosa

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## RESPONSIVE LITANY OF PENITENCE (from Joel 1:1-2, 12-14)

Scott Herrington  
and Sheryl Gallarneau

The word of the Lord that came to Joel.  
Hear this all who live in the land.

**Put on sackcloth, mourn and cry.**

Wear it all night for we are neglecting God.

**Declare a holy fast call a sacred assembly.**

Gather the community and cry out to God.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Make haste, O God and deliver me.

**Lord, have mercy.**

O Lord, make haste to help me.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**SCRIPTURE READING (JOEL 2:1-2, 12-13)**

Jake Maxwell

<sup>1</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near— <sup>2</sup> a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. <sup>12</sup> Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup> rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

**HOMILY**

Jake Maxwell

**MINISTRY OF SILENCE**

**PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR THE ASHES**

Jake Maxwell

**IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES**

Jake Maxwell

**PASTORAL BENEDICTION**

Jake Maxwell

# *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

Ash Wednesday has been honored by Christians through the ages. It is the beginning of Lent, the six-week season of preparation for Easter.

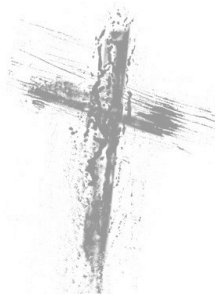
Just as Job repented "in dust and ashes," (Job 42:6) so did the earliest Christians who had ashes sprinkled on their bodies as an outward sign of repentance. This outward sign, however, speaks of two decisions occurring at the same time - repentance and belief.

The starkness of the season reflects the stark honesty with which we approach God and gives us permission to freely acknowledge our own imperfections before God and with each other. The external sign reflects an internal decision to follow, to forgive each other, and to forgive ourselves. This constant reaffirmation of ourselves must become a way of life and is never done once and for all.

Ash Wednesday calls us to self-examination and is a continual practice of honesty, repentance, forgiveness, and acceptance. The culmination of this self-acceptance is the bodily resurrection of Christ, dying for us and truly risen in love...from the ashes of our sin. This is both the brutal, and the beautiful, honesty of the cross.

-Emily Sharp

## *Ash Wednesday*



**LOVE. ALL. NOW**

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