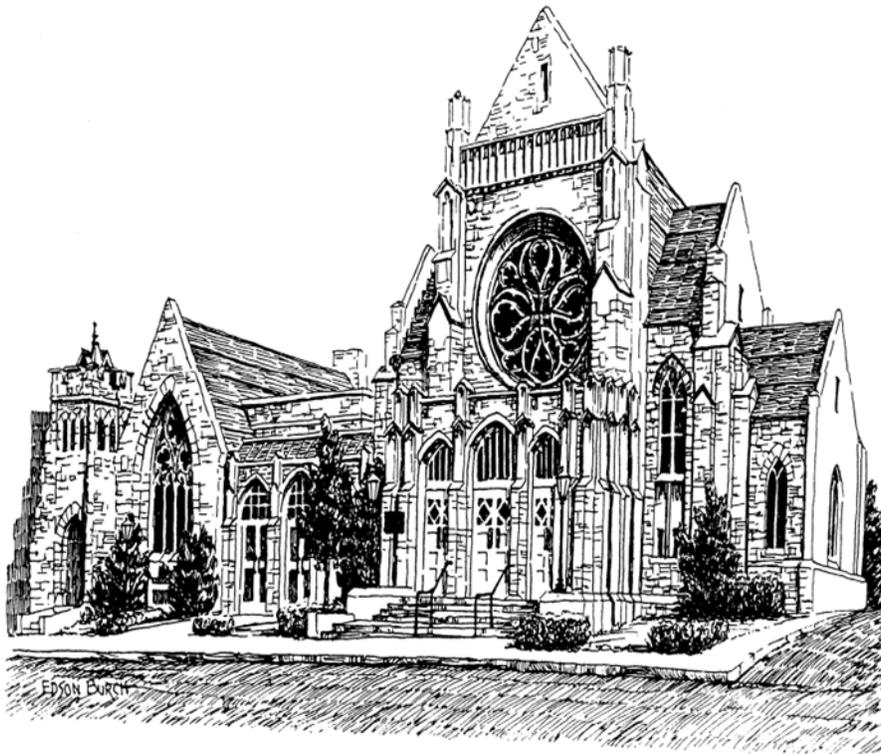


WEBSTER GROVES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Ash Wednesday
February 17, 2021
7:00 p.m.

OUR MISSION
We seek to live Christ's love,
welcome all people and joyfully serve God.



Audio Visual Instructions:

- 6:55:00 pm: Start with sound fader at zero. Screen is black.
- 6:59:50 Give verbal 10 second warning.
- 6:59:55 Verbal count down...5..4...3...(bring up sound)
- 7:00:00 Silent que to begin. Screen remains black
- 7:00:15 Turn to fade dial to zero.

~GATHERING FOR GOD'S WORD~

✦CALL TO WORSHIP (Lectern)

Leader: We come to worship God as the Lenten season begins,
aware of our frailty and our failings.

People: **We come seeking God's mercy,
acknowledging our mortality.**

Leader: Having received the water of baptism,.

People: **we come to the source of our lives to acknowledge our sins.**

Leader: May we humble ourselves before God not with yoke of burden

People: **but a mantle of freedom in Jesus' name.**

SONG "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" arr. Terre Johnson

✦CALL TO CONFESSION (Font)

God desires truth in the inward being and receives a broken spirit, the contrite heart.
Seeing abundant mercy, let confess our sins before God.

✦PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Psalm 51) (Lectern)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

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

Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

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

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.

Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,

then you will delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

According to God's steadfast love,
according to God's abundant mercy,
God does not pass judgment on us -the judgment we deserve.

God creates in us clean hearts and gives a new and right spirit.

In the grace of Jesus Christ,

We return to God forgiven.

Praise God for our salvation!

✦PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

God of our salvation,
We long to be reconciled to you.
Help us to clear away any obstacle
that prevents us from accepting the grace of Christ.
No matter what we face in this life,
increase in us knowledge and patience,

kindness and holiness of spirit,
genuine love and thoughtful 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.
Though it may seem that we have nothing,
if we are reconciled to you,
we possess everything,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

~PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD~

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Merciful God,
your word is our way of truth and life.
Create in us hearts that are clean and put your Holy Spirit within us,
so that we may receive your grace and declare your praise forever;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

First reading: Isaiah 58:1-12

58 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.

Second 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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so 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. ⁶But 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. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

SERMON

Rev. Ed Zumwinkel III

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

~RESPONDING TO GODS'S WORD~

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God in the highest,
you came to us in a human being who humble himself like a slave.
The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

We pray for the nations that worship power and might;
may be ruled by humility and peace.
The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

We pray for the church and its leaders,
that we may have the mind of Christ.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

We pray for the victims of human tragedies and disasters of nature.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

We pray for those who are in prison– the repentant and the unrepentant
and those falsely accused.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

We pray for those who are ill or infirmed or are rejected because they are seen to be different.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

God of compassion,
through Jesus Christ you have come to us and shared our common lot.
Mold us into people who show your mercy
and keep us obedient to Christ whose name is above all other names,
in Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

SONG

"Abide With Me" -

arr. Terre Johnson

BLESSING

May the God of peace make you holy in every way
and keep your whole being
spirit, soul, and body-
free from every fault
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

CHARGE

Be at peace and love and serve the Lord.
Thanks Be to God.

Worship Notes

Some prayers and liturgical texts for worship are provided by:

Book of Common Worship. (2016). Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press.

Call to Worship. (2018). Louisville: Office of Theology and Worship of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Feasting On The Word. (2012). Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press.

Feasting on the Word. (2014). Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press.