

Ash Wednesday: A Service of Prayers & Ashes

March 2, 2022 at 12 Noon

at First Baptist Church

sponsored by the Downtown Lafayette Churches

Prelude

“Largo”

Vivaldi

Karen Isaacs, violinist, and Melanie Manges, pianist

Welcome

Rev. Andrew Guthrie

Call to Worship (*from Isaiah 58:5-6*)

The Rev. Andrea Arsene

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

**We come seeking God’s mercy,
acknowledging our mortality.**

Having received the waters of baptism,
we come to be marked now with ashes.

May we humble ourselves before God
not with a yoke of burden

but a mantle of freedom in Jesus’ name.

Hymn of Devotion

“Be Thou My Vision”

#502

Karen Isaacs, violinist, and Melanie Manges, pianist

(*Verse 1*) Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;

Naught be all else to me, save that thou art-

Thou my best thought by day or by night,

Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

(*Verse 2*) Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word,

I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;

Thou and thou only, first in my heart,

High King of heaven, my Treasure thou art.

(Verse 3) High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Prayer of Confession (*from Psalm 51*)

Pastor Suzanne Clemenz & Pastor Mack Owings

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 away 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.**

Declaration of Forgiveness from Psalm 51

Rev. Tracey Leslie

According to God's steadfast love,
according to God's abundant mercy,
God does not pass judgment on us
the judgement 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!

Worship Arts

"Amazing Grace"

Newton

Karen Isaacs, violinist, and Melanie Manges, pianist

Prayer

Rev. Pamela Jones Horne

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 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.
Though it may seem that we have nothing,
if we are reconciled to you, we possess everything,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

New Testament Reading

The Rev. Gretchen Freese

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18 (NRSV)

Leader: The word of God, for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

Rev. Lisa Williams Hood

Hymn of Ashes

"Where Are You God? We Long To Know"¹

Gillette

Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, sung to the tune of "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Melanie Manges, organist

(Verse 1) Where are you, God? We long to know.

At times, our sorrows overflow.

Then others ask the question, too.

"Where is your God?" — they say of you.

(Verse 2) We've seen the wages of our sin;
we've dreamed of things that might have been.

We've given in to hate and fear;
we've pushed away those you hold dear.

¹ Original song by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Used with permission. <https://www.carolynshymns.com>

(Verse 3) May we put feasts and games aside;
may we tear down the walls of pride.
We're sorry, Lord! We've turned from you!
So now we ask "What can we do?"

(Verse 4) Still you are gracious, loving, kind.
We'll turn around! Now is the time!
These Lenten days, O God, may we
become your blest community.

Litany of Ashes

The Rev. Dr. Bradley Pace

We bow our heads before you, O God,
aware of our sinfulness and our shortcomings.
Remembering our baptism,
the watermark of the cross upon us,
we also receive this ashen cross
upon our foreheads-
another sign
that in life and in death,
we belong to you.
In the name of Jesus Christ,
crucified, risen, and coming again,
we pray. Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Please come forward to receive ashes from one of the pastors:

Rev. Pamela Jones Horne, The Rev. Andrea Arsene,
Pastor Suzanne Clemenz, Rev. Kim Brewer, and Rev. Andrew Guthrie

“O Lord, Hear My Prayer”

Karen Isaacs, violinist, and Melanie Manges, organist

Hymn of Response

“All Will Be Well”

by Steven C. Warner

Karen Isaacs, violinist, and Melanie Manges, organist

(Refrain) All will be well, and all will be well,
all manner of things will be well.

All will be well, and all will be well,

All manner of things will be well.

Will be well, will be well.

(Verse 1) Our Lord said that all would be well,

All manner of things would be well.

(Verse 2) With all the sadness wrought in this world,

the good shall always prevail.

(Refrain) All will be well, and all will be well,
all manner of things will be well.

All will be well, and all will be well,

All manner of things will be well.

Will be well, will be well.

(Verse 3) In all the doubts that shroud simple truths,

We pray for the wisdom of God.

(Verse 4) Give us the faith to trust in your love,

When things are concealed from our view.

(Refrain) All will be well, and all will be well,
all manner of things will be well.

All will be well, and all will be well,

All manner of things will be well.

Will be well, will be well.

(Verse 5) Our faith is firm and stands on the Word,

The Word that endures for all time.

(Verse 6) And so we pray to trust in the hope
That all manner of things shall be well.

(Refrain) All will be well, and all will be well,
all manner of things will be well.
All will be well, and all will be well,
All manner of things will be well.
Will be well, will be well. (Repeat)

Benediction/Dismissal (from Isaiah 58)

Rev. Kim Brewer

Dedicate yourselves to the fast God chooses,
Loosening the yoke of bondage,
Declaring freedom to the oppressed,
Offering food to the hungry
And shelter to the homeless.
Then your light shall break forth like dawn,
And the glory of the Lord will shine upon you.
God will hear your cry and be at your side, now and forevermore. Amen

Postlude

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

J.S. Bach

Melanie Manges, organist

Melanie Manges, First Baptist Church

Karen Isaacs, Special Guest

Aurie Swartz, First Baptist Church

Rev. Pamela Jones Horne, Bethel AME Church

The Rev. Dr. Bradley Pace, St. John’s Episcopal

The Rev. Andrea Arsene, St. John’s Episcopal

The Rev. Gretchen Freese, St. John’s Episcopal

Rev. Tracey Leslie, Trinity UMC

Pastor Suzanne Clemenz, Trinity UMC

Pastor Mack Owings, Trinity UMC

Rev. Andrew Guthrie, First Christian Church

Rev. Kim Brewer, First Baptist Church

Rev. Lisa Williams Hood, First Baptist Church

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**Litany adapted from “Feasting on the Word: Lenten Companion,” pg. 174-181 by David L. Bartlett, Barbara Brown Taylor, and Kimberly Bracken Long, editors.*