

Ash Wednesday Worship

February 17, 2021

6:00 p.m.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Balm in Gilead

ROY JAMES STEWART

◆CALL TO WORSHIP

FROM LUKE 4:1; ROM. 10:8B

One: The season of Lent sets us on a journey.

All: The journey begins in the wilderness.

One: We follow the way of Jesus,
who faced trials, trouble, temptation, and testing.

All: Like Jesus, we are not alone.

The Holy Spirit is with us. God's Word is on our lips.

One: Our call is to trust in God alone, to do God's will in all things.

**All: For God leads us not only into the wilderness,
but also through the wilderness.**

◆INVOCATION AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 6:1-10

MEDITATION

HYMN

Hymn of Promise

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER

◆BENEDICTION

◆POSTLUDE

◆*Please stand, if able*

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower” words and music by Natalie Sleeth © 1986 Hope Publishing Company
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YOU ARE INVITED!

- Pick up a copy of WPC's Lenten Devotional, and join with others as we pray through the Psalms together during Lent.
- Join us for Backpack Buddies. Immediately after the service, we'll go over to the breezeway to pack take-home food kits for students at Goodwin Elementary. It is an opportunity for all ages, and it will take about 45 minutes.
- Worship this Sunday at 11:00. In-person or online. It is the first Sunday in Lent, and we'll be studying Psalm 51: David's prayer of confession.

A WORD ABOUT LENT AND ASH WEDNESDAY

The word lent is from the Anglo-Saxon *lencten* which means spring or the springtime. Literally, it means the time of the year when the days lengthen. In the church, Lent is the 40 day period during which Christians rededicate themselves to follow Jesus Christ as His faithful disciples, and prepare to celebrate the Lord's resurrection at Easter. Many Christians vow to give up things (like desserts or TV) during Lent so that when they desire those things, they are reminded of their relationship with the Lord. Other Christians choose to take up something (like daily prayer or acts of kindness) during Lent to strengthen their faith.

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. It's called Ash Wednesday because as a sign of repentance, believers through the centuries have received the mark of an ashen cross on their forehead. The ashes remind us of God's words to Adam when he sinned- "remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," and it reminds us of the Old Testament practice of wearing sackcloth and having ashes placed on the head as a sign of spiritual poverty.

Tonight, instead of administering ashes we are sharing in The Lord's Supper. Listen for the HOPE that we have in Christ who through his life, death, and resurrection, delivers us from the enemies of sin and death.