

REND
YOUR **h**EARTS
NOT YOUR GARMENTS.

—♦—
TURN
TO THE
LORD
—♦—

FOR YOUR **GOD**
IS GRACIOUS
AND MERCIFUL,
SLOW TO ANGER AND OF
GREAT KINDNESS,
JOEL 2:13

Lent

Welcome dear feast of Lent: who loves not thee,
He loves not Temperance, or Authority,
But is composed of passion.
The Scriptures bid us fast; the Church says, now:
Give to thy Mother, what thou wouldst allow
To ev'ry Corporation.

The humble soul composed of love and fear
Begins at home, and lays the burden there,
When doctrines disagree,
He says, in things which use hath justly got,
I am a scandal to the Church, and not
The Church is so to me.

True Christians should be glad of an occasion
To use their temperance, seeking no evasion,
When good is seasonable;
Unless Authority, which should increase
The obligation in us, make it less,
And Power itself disable.

Besides the cleanness of sweet abstinence,
Quick thoughts and motions at a small expense,
A face not fearing light:
Whereas in fullness there are sluttish fumes,
Sour exhalations, and dishonest rheums,
Revenging the delight.

Then those same pendant profits, which the spring
And Easter intimate, enlarge the thing,
And goodness of the deed.
Neither ought other men's abuse of Lent
Spoil the good use; lest by that argument
We forfeit all our Creed.

It's true, we cannot reach Christ's fortieth day;
Yet to go part of that religious way,
Is better than to rest:
We cannot reach our Saviour's purity;
Yet we are bid, 'Be holy ev'n as he,'
In both let's do our best.

Who goeth in the way which Christ hath gone,
Is much more sure to meet with him, than one
That travelleth by-ways:
Perhaps my God, though he be far before,
May turn and take me by the hand, and more:
May strengthen my decays.

Yet Lord instruct us to improve our fast
By starving sin and taking such repast,
As may our faults control:
That ev'ry man may revel at his door,
Not in his parlor; banqueting the poor,
And among those his soul.

– *George Herbert*



Ash Wednesday

18 February 2026, 7:00 pm

Holy Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes

On this day, the service begins in silence. Please stand as you are able as the ministers leading the service enter.

Presider: Blessed be God who forgives all our sins.

***People:* God's mercy endures forever.**

Presider: God be with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray:

***All:* Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Please be seated for

Isaiah 58:1-12

Reader: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah:

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.

Yet 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.

“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.

Look, 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.

Is 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?

Is 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?

Is 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?

Then 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.

Then 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,



if 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.
The 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.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many
generations;

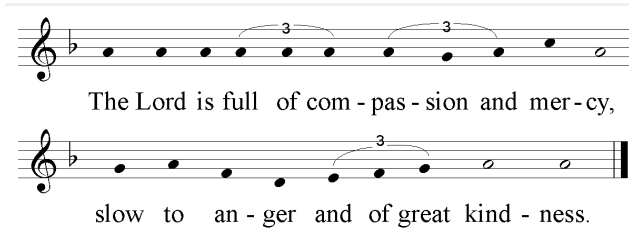
you shall be called the repairer of the
breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:8-14

The Choir sings Refrain; the Congregation repeats. The Choir sings Verses; the Congregation sings Refrain where indicated.



- ⁹ He will not always accuse us,*
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- ¹⁰ He has not dealt with us according to our sins,*
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. **Refrain**
- ¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth,*
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- ¹² As far as the east is from the west,*
so far has he removed our sins from us. **Refrain**
- ¹³ As a father cares for his children,*
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.
- ¹⁴ For he himself knows whereof we are made,*
he remembers that we are but dust. **Refrain**

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

Reader: A reading from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians:

We entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true, as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look — we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, as



sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able for

Hymn 641

“Lord Jesus, think on me”

Southwell

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

“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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“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. But 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.

“And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so 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.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Priest: The Gospel of our Savior.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Following the Gospel, when the Preacher invites you, please be seated for

The Sermon

The Reverend Todd L. Miller

A period of silence follows the Sermon, after which, when invited, please stand as you are able for

The Invitation and Imposition of Ashes

BCP p 264

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.



Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

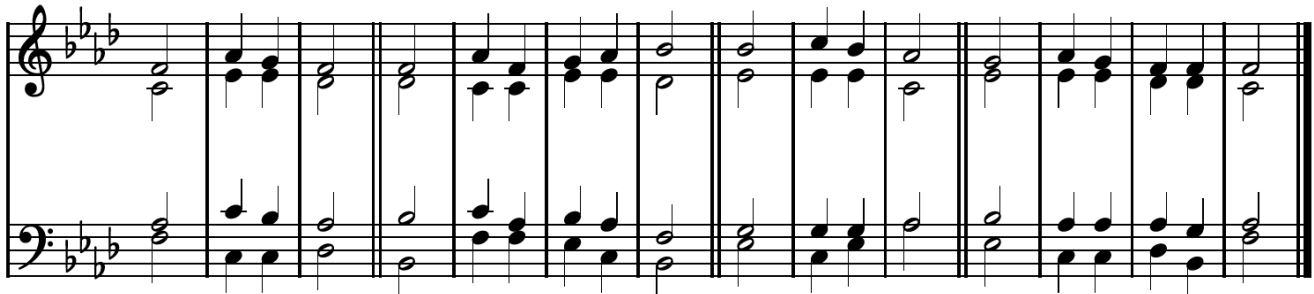
The ashes are imposed with the following words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

A Note on the Imposition of Ashes: *For those who do not wish to be imposed with ashes, please know that the imposition of ashes is entirely optional to tonight's liturgy. It is possible to still make a right beginning to this season of repentance without receiving the ashes.*

During the imposition of ashes, the Choir and Congregation sing Psalm 51:1-18, found on this page and the next.

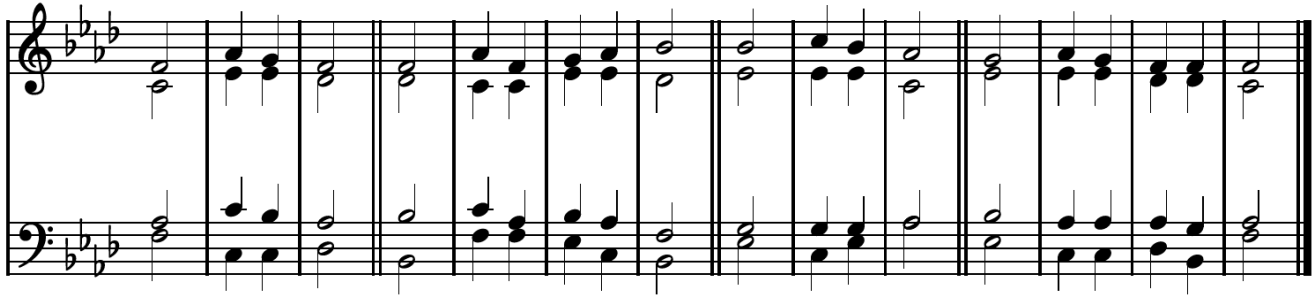
Psalm 51:1-18

C. Hylton Stewart (1884–1932)



- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your ¹loving¹kindness; *
in your great compassion ¹blot out¹ my of¹fenses.
- 2 Wash me through and ¹through from my ¹wickedness *
and ¹cleanse me ¹from my ¹sin.
- 3 For I ¹know my trans¹gressions, *
and my ¹sin is ¹ever be¹fore me.
- 4 Against you ¹only have I ¹sinned *
and done what is ¹evil ¹in your ¹sight.
- 5 And so you are justified ¹when you ¹speak *
and ¹upright ¹in your ¹judgment.
- 6 Indeed, I have been ¹wicked from my ¹birth, *
a ¹sinner from my ¹mother's ¹womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth ¹deep with¹in me, *
and will make me under¹stand ¹wisdom ¹secretly.
- 8 Purge me from my sin, and ¹I shall be ¹pure; *
wash me, and ¹I shall be ¹clean in¹deed.





- 9 Make me hear of¹ joy and¹ gladness, *
that the body you have¹ broken¹ may re¹joice.
- 10 Hide your¹ face from my¹ sins *
and blot¹ out all¹ my in¹iquities.
- 11 Create in me a clean¹ heart, O¹ God, *
and re¹new a right¹ spirit with¹in me.
- 12 Cast me not a¹ way from your¹ presence *
and take not your¹ holy¹ Spirit¹ from me.
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving¹ help a¹gain *
and sus¹tain me with your¹ bountiful¹ Spirit.
- 14 I shall teach your¹ ways to the¹ wicked, *
and sinners¹ shall re¹turn to¹ you.
- 15 Deliver me from¹ death, O¹ God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O¹ God of¹ my sal¹vation.
- 16 Open my¹ lips, O¹ Lord, *
and my¹ mouth shall pro¹claim your¹ praise.
- 17 Had you desired it, I would have¹ offered¹ sacrifice, *
but you take no de¹light in¹ burnt¹ offerings.
- 18 The sacrifice of God is a¹ troubled¹ spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O¹ God, you will¹ not des¹pise.

When the priests kneel, please kneel as you are able for

The Litany of Penitence

BCP p 267

*Please join in the **bolded** portions.*

Most holy and merciful Father: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, Lord.



We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

We confess to you, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The Absolution

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Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able for

The Peace

Presider: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Greetings and Announcements

Offertory

This evening's free-will offering will be donated to the Centre Street Food Pantry, which provides nutritional support to our neighbors in need.



Offertory Anthem

Call to remembrance

Richard Farrant (1535-1580)

Call to remembrance, O Lord, thy tender mercy and thy loving-kindness, which have been ever of old. O remember not the sins and offences of my youth: but according to thy mercy, think thou on me, O Lord, for thy goodness.

– *Psalm 25:5, 6*

Please stand as you are able for

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP p 361

Eucharistic Prayer A, Expansive Language Version

Presider: God be with you

***People:* And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

***People:* We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***People:* It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus and Benedictus S 124

David Hurd

Presider: Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

***People:* Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Presider: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**



The Lord's Prayer

BCP p 365

Presider: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Fraction Anthem S 161

Hurd

Presentation of the Gifts

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

– All people are welcome to receive communion at God's table in this place. –

St. John's offers communion in both kinds (bread and wine).

To receive the bread, please stand or kneel at the altar rail and extend your hands.

To receive the wine, please drink directly from the chalice. Due to public health guidelines, please do not dip the bread in the chalice.

Please be reassured that communion is fully received if you receive the bread alone.

If you prefer to receive a blessing instead of communion, please simply stand or kneel at the altar rail and cross your arms over your chest.

Communion Hymn 148

“Creator of the earth and skies”

Uffingham

Please stand as you are able for

The Prayer After Communion

BCP p 365 (Expansive Language Version)

Presider: Let us pray.

All: **Eternal God,
you have graciously accepted us
as living members of our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Lenten Prayer over the People

In Lent, in place of a blessing, a solemn Prayer over the People is used.

Presider: Bow down before the Lord.

Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Hymn 149

“Eternal Lord of love, behold your church”

Old 124th

The congregation departs in silence after the ministers of the service have withdrawn.





LEADERS OF THIS EVENING'S SERVICE

President: The Reverend Michael Thompson, Esq.

Preacher: The Reverend Todd L. Miller

Music Director: Jeffrey Mills

Wardens: Kristin Knudson and Laura Brewer

Lay Eucharistic Minister: Marina Matuzek

Lector and Usher: Tom Wood

Altar Guild: Patty Schoeck

IT Minister: Ken Sinclair

St. John's is thankful to be joined this evening by
The Reverend Todd L. Miller and the People of Trinity Parish of Newton Centre



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The Right Reverend Julia E. Whitworth, *Bishop of Massachusetts*
The Right Reverend Ian T. Douglas, *Assisting Bishop of Massachusetts*
The Right Reverend Mary D. Glasspool, *Assisting Bishop of Massachusetts*

The Reverend Michael Thompson, Esq., *Priest in Charge*
rev.michael.thompson.esq@gmail.com

Kristin Knudson & Laura Brewer, *Wardens*
Betsy Blagdon, *Treasurer*
Sarah Moravick, *Clerk*

Alastair Battson, Brian Goeselt, Lily McKay
Elizabeth Seaman, Alec Schoeck, Becky Snow
Vestry Members

Jeffrey Mills, *Organist and Choirmaster*
Cathy Richmond Robinson, *Parish Administrator*

