

St. James United Church

February 18, 2015

Ash Wednesday

Minister: Rev. Terrie Burry
Minister of Visitation: Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM
Music Director: Sophia WerdenAbrams

Please remain seated comfortably until invited to stand.

Please turn off your cell phone during the Service.



Musical Prelude

One: We gather, surrounded by the light of Christ and the waters of baptism: we have nothing to fear from the truth which sets us free. Let us turn with confidence to the God of grace.

Call to Repentance: Psalm 51

Hymn: *Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes* 107

Scripture: Matthew 6 : 1-21

First Prayer of Confession:

Response:

One: God of Mercy.....

All: Forgive us.

Second Prayer of Confession:

One: From lack of reverence for truth and beauty, from a calculating or sentimental mind, from going along with mean and ugly things,

All: Holy One, deliver us.

One: From cowardice that dares not to face truth, laziness content with half truth, or arrogance that purports to know all,

All: Holy One, deliver us.

One: From artificial life and worship, from all that is hollow or insincere, from trite ideals and cheap pleasures,

All: Holy One, deliver us.

One: From being pompous or rude, from cynicism about others, from intolerance or cruel indifference,

All: Holy One, deliver us.

One: From being satisfied with things as they are, in the church or in the world, from failing to share our outrage about injustice,

All: Holy One, deliver us.

One: From selfishness, self-indulgence, or self-pity,

All: Holy One, deliver us.

One: From token concern for the poor, for lonely or loveless people, from confusing good faith with good feeling, or love with wanting to be loved,

All: Holy One, deliver us.

One: For everything in us that may hide your light,

All: Holy One, deliver us. Amen.

Hymn: *Take, O Take Me as I Am*

MV85

Third Prayer of Confession:

All: Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, grant us Your peace.

Quenching of the Ashes with Baptismal Water:

One: These ashes remind us of our frailty and our mortality.

This water proclaims the grace of God.

The mark we bear calls us to walk the way of the cross.

All: God our creator, You have formed us out of the dust of the earth.

May these ashes be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that only by Your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Reflection

The Mark of Ashes

Hymn: *Be Thou My Vision*

642

Sending Forth:

One: Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether, the past is finished and gone, everything becomes fresh and new.

All: Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation in the world, in the church and in our lives.

Blessing & Sending Forth