



Ash
Wednesday



First Baptist Church

columbia

Our Worship of God

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

6:00 pm

(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)

~ Ash Wednesday ~

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. It is a service for repentance and somber reflection based on the text: "you are dust and to dust you shall return" (Gen. 3:19). The use of ashes began in the tenth century to remind worshippers of their mortality as they began their Lenten journey to the cross. This first day of Lent reminds us that two things are involved in genuine repentance: "the dying of the old self and the coming to life of the new."

Gathering Prayer (unison)

Carol McEntyre

Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism. Look upon us as we enter these forty days bearing the mark of ashes, and bless our journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth.

May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts.

All that we do and pray is in the name of Jesus, for in his cross you proclaim your love for ever and ever. Amen.

Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God



1 Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God; cre -
 2 7 Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence; 7
 3 Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion; re -



ate in me a clean heart, O God; cre -
 cast me not a - way from your pres - ence; 7
 store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion; re -



ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 cast me not a - way from your pres - ence 7 and
 store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -



new a right spir - it with - in me.
 take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
 hold me with your free Spir - it.

Poured Out (responsive)

Mary Lou Spradling

Based on Psalm 51

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.

In times of separation and sin, it is Jesus who pours out his love to cleanse and forgive us and reconnect us to God.

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.

Sin, darkness, death. Our hope is in the unfailing faithfulness of God who pours out upon us forgiveness, light and life.

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.

Through Jesus, the cleansing waters of life are poured out for forgiveness, cleansing and renewal.

Through Jesus, the anointing power of oil is poured out to mark us as special, honored, lifted up.

Through Jesus, sacrificial life-giving blood is poured out in mercy and grace.

Through Jesus, wine is poured out, a symbol of community and the forgiveness of sin.

Through Jesus, salty sorrowful tears are poured out in pain, despair and confusion.

Love, poured out in many expressions, a gift of life and a foreshadowing of death.

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.

Lord, pour out your love upon us.

Scripture Reading

Ross Kasmann

John 3:16-21

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

Poured Out: Oil

Ed Rollins

To Dust

Marolli

Bria Jones and Ed Rollins

Poured Out: Water

Ed Rollins

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

We have many treasures on earth

that we hold too dearly;

that we withhold from others in need.

When we sin against neighbor,

condone injustice,

and quarrel with one another,

we sin against you.

Forgive us, we pray, for we are broken in spirit.

Do not see us for our faults,

and do not go away from us.

Keep us always in your presence

so that we may be restored to the joy of your salvation.

Sustain in us a willing spirit to treasure what you desire;

then our hearts will be opened in joy and gladness.

In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

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!

Poured Out: Wine

Michael McEntyre

Prayer (responsive)

Misty Phillips

Holy God,
As we journey with Jesus Christ,
give us an abiding sense of your presence,
an unguarded sense of ourselves,
and an awareness of the needs of this world.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Loving God,
As we are marked with the ashes of earth,
we bring before you the frailty
of our very human lives:
the fragility of our health,
the tenuousness of our accomplishments and plans,
the changing nature of even our closest relationships.

Grant us patience in suffering
and healing from our ills.
Give us, in equal measure,
Humility and hope in our pursuits.
Bind us in covenantal love
that is both constant yet able to change
according to the needs and circumstances before us.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer. Amen.

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The Gift of Ashes:

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes.
This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life,
calls us to heartfelt repentance,
and urges us to place our hope in God alone.

Prayer (responsive)

Almighty God,
you have created us out of the dust of the earth.
May these ashes remind us of our mortality and penitence
and teach us again that only by your gracious gift
are we given everlasting life
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

The Imposition of Ashes

Benediction

The blessing of God, who hears when you call;
the grace of Christ, who reconciles you;
the power of the Holy Spirit, who sustains you
remain with you in these Lenten days
and for all your days,
and forevermore. Amen.

Worship Notes

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God, TEXT: Para John Carter, 1997; MUSIC: John Carter, 1997; *Text and Music* © 1997 Hope Publishing Company.

Worship Assistants:

Oil	Caryn McClanahan
Water	Michelle Kasmann
Wine	Suzy Lee
Tears	John Adams
Blood	Nate McEntyre



6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

*For those who may prefer a contemporary Sunday worship experience, First Baptist Church offers
Awakening Contemporary Worship at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall.
A Traditional Sunday worship experience is offered at 11:15 a.m. each Sunday in the Sanctuary.*

For Children During Worship:

1st- 5th Graders are encouraged to participate in worship with their family.

Children (Birth-Kindergarten) can be dropped off in the nursery, located next to the sanctuary, prior to worship where they will be cared for by our professional staff.

10:15 Spiritual Formation Hour:

Birth-Age 3 childcare is provided by our professional staff in the nursery, located next to the sanctuary.

First Kids Sunday School (3 year olds through 5th grade) is on the third floor.

Youth Bible Study (grades 6-12) is on the third floor.

Adult Small Groups which dive into various topics (visitors and guests welcomed):

Discussion Class in the Parlor on the second floor.

Faith Forum in the second floor classroom, next to the elevator.

Community Small Group in the conference on the second floor.

Young Adult Small Group in the 2nd floor library.

Church Staff

Carol McEntyre, Senior Pastor † Ed Rollins, Associate Pastor

Michael McEntyre, Associate Pastor of Youth, College and young Adults, and Missions

Yvette Chambers, Director of Children's Ministry

Alex Bennett, Awakening Worship Coordinator † Colleen Ostercamp, Pianist and Organist

Janet Deneke, Admin. Assistant † Brenda Rice, Project Coordinator

Bethany James, Nursery Director † Glenn Owings, Custodian