



Our Mission...

to be an accepting Christian community dedicated to living, sharing and teaching the Word of God.

We respect all aspects of people including race, ethnicity, gender expression, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, age, religion, mental wellness, and ability.

Ash Wednesday
February 17th, 2021

***Bold print** indicates a congregational response.*

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

WELCOME and ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

We acknowledge that we meet and work in Treaty 1 land, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree and Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Metis nation. We are thankful for these first inhabitants and we commit to working together towards justice, truth and reconciliation.

CALL TO WORSHIP

*God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.*

God's love endures forever.

*God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble.
Therefore, we will not fear though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.*

God's love endures forever.

PRELUDE: #508 VU – "Just as I Am"

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~words by Charlotte Elliott

~Rev. Tanis Kolisnyk

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**
- 2 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**
- 3 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,**

**fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**4 Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Gracious God, you despise nothing you have made
and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent.
Create in us new and contrite hearts,
that truly repenting of our sins
and acknowledging our brokenness,
we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy,
full pardon and forgiveness;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS: *Peter Latimer*

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 58: 1-12

*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 practised righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgements, 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 rearguard.

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.

The Gospel

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

'Beware of practising your piety 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 dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as 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.

RESPONSE:

This is the word of God.

Thanks be to God

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

*Friends in Christ, every year at the time of the Christian Passover,
we celebrate our redemption
through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration
and to renew our life in the paschal mystery.
We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance,
and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.
We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes.
Though we are unable to impose ashes at this time,
this ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life,
and marks the penitence of this community.
I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ,
to observe a holy Lent, by self-examination and penitence,
by prayer and fasting, by works of love,
and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.
Let us bow before God, our Creator and Redeemer, and confess our sin.*

Psalm

Psalm 51: 1-17

*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 judgement.

**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 from my sin 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 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 of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.*

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

For you have no delight in sacrifice;

if I were to give a burnt-offering, you would not be pleased.

**The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. Amen.**

**Holy and merciful God, 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 neighbours as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

(Silence)

Lord, have mercy,

Christ have mercy,

Lord have mercy.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Favourably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great. Amen.

*Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be
for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your
gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.*

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

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of our Saviour,

bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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, the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

A FINAL PRAYER

**God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ,
you reconciled your people to yourself.**

**Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you
with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

THE BLESSING

May the God of peace make you holy in every way and keep your whole being, spirit, soul and body, free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

POSTLUDE: #684 VU – **“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”** ~words St. Francis of Assisi
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- 1 Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your healing power,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you:**
- 2 Make me a channel of your peace:
where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.
O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.**
- 3 Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.**