

Order of Worship
Ash Wednesday

February 26, 2020

6:45 PM

Prelude

Call to Worship (From Psalm 51):

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love
People: **According to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**
Leader: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity
People: **And cleanse me from my sin.**
Leader: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
People: **Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight.**
Leader: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean
People: **Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow**
Leader: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
People: **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.**
Leader: For you have no delight in sacrifice
People: **If I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.**
People: **The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

• Hymn - #421 Have Mercy, God, upon My LifeIRISH

• Prayer of Confession

Leader: In the name of Christ, I urge you: Be reconciled to God. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.
People: **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.**
Leader: 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.
People: **Have mercy on us, O God.**
Leader: We have not listened 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.
People: **Have mercy on us, O God.**
Leader: We confess to you, O God, the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives.
People: **We confess to you, O God.**
Leader: Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. Restore us and refresh us in your Spirit.
People: **Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great. Amen.**

• Congregational Response - #568 Amen.....AMEN

New Testament Reading: I Corinthians 12:12-26.....p.174

Choir Anthem – Reflections on Life and the Word.....Mock/Lopez

All flesh is like grass and its glory like the flower
Grass will wither, flower fail, its beauty fades away
Brightest sunlit skies, days unfolding into night
Heaven and earth will pass away
The Lord will be our Light

But the Word of God goes forth in pure and matchless truth
A light, a living Word forever will endure

Let each one receive as the rain and snow that fall
Living Words of life that touch the hearts and souls of all

All flesh is like grass

New Testament Reading: Romans 3:21-27.....p.154

Reflections

• Imposition of Ashes.....Paul Casner and Beth Chiles

Imposition of Ashes

*To receive ashes, come forward by the center aisle.
Then, return to your seat by the side aisle.*

• Hymn - #341 O God, Show Mercy to Us.....THAXTED

Benediction based on Joel 2

Leader: Even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing.

People: **Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.**

• Postlude

The (●) dot in the order of worship means you may stand.

Worship Leaders

Liturgist: Dot Loeffler
Ash Distribution: Paul Casner and Beth Chiles

The Season of Lent spans 40 weekdays beginning on Ash Wednesday and climaxing during Holy Week with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and concluding the Saturday before Easter. Originally, Lent was the time of preparation for those who were to be baptized, a time of concentrated study and prayer before their baptism at the Easter Vigil, the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord early on Easter Sunday. Today Lent is marked by a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter. Since Sunday celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days of Lent, and are referred to as the Sundays in Lent. The number 40 is connected with many biblical events, but especially with the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for His ministry by facing the temptations that could lead him to abandon his mission and calling. Christians today use this period of time for introspection, self-examination, and repentance. This season of the year is equal only to the Season of Advent in importance in the Christian year, and is part of the second major grouping of Christian festivals and sacred time that includes Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost.

Ash Wednesday, the seventh Wednesday before Easter Sunday, is the first day of the **Season of Lent**. Its name comes from the ancient practice of placing ashes on worshipers' heads or foreheads as a sign of humility before God, a symbol of mourning and sorrow at the death that sin brings into the world. It not only prefigures the mourning at the death of Jesus, but also places the worshiper in a position to realize the consequences of sin. **Ash Wednesday** is a somber day of reflection on what needs to change in our lives if we are to be fully Christian.

~Dennis Bratcher

Biblical and Theological Resources for Growing Christians

Donelson Presbyterian Church

Sharing the Love of Christ



February 26, 2020

2305 Lebanon Road
Nashville, TN 37214
Phone 615-883-3248

www.donelsonpres.org
donelsonchurch@bellsouth.net