



**CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA

February 17, 2021

7:00pm



## **WELCOME**

Dear friends welcome to this online Ash Wednesday service. For many Christians throughout our country and throughout the world Ash Wednesday remains as one of the last worship services unaffected by the global pandemic of COVID-19. For many Christians the imposition of ashes on their forehead carried out by a pastor, or other ordained leader of the church, is a tangible reminder of what the Lenten journey is all about – deep personal reflection, and picking up your cross to follow Jesus to Jerusalem. In years past we have embarked on this journey together, in person, reminding ourselves that we are not alone on the path. This year is not the same.

With that being said I want to invite you all to open your minds and open your hearts to entering into the Lenten journey in a new way – in a way that reinforces without qualification that the cross being borne to Jerusalem is for each one of us individually. We are *still* not alone in our Lenten journey, we remain in beloved community as we move toward crucifixion and then resurrection, but in imposing the ashes for ourselves we are reminded that the ashes come with a promise, “From dust you have come, and to dust you will return.” Each one of us, individually, comes to this worship in our frailty reminded that we are both miraculous and ordinary – both created in the image of God and constantly in need of God’s grace.

This year we have plenty of reminders in the world all around us of our mortality. In some ways the world has already imposed the reminder of our frailty through this pandemic – and so this year, with everything being so incredibly different maybe we can find space for God’s Spirit to speak to us through the ashes in a new way. Perhaps, instead the ashes being imposed upon us, we can think of the ashes being accepted and put on – freely and consciously – remembering that this is how we begin down the road to Jerusalem.

Most importantly, let us be reminded that our lives are a mirror of the sacred story of the gospel. This is how the journey to Jerusalem, and to the cross, begins – but the end of that story is resurrection and new life. So friends, welcome. Welcome and thank you for undertaking this journey together. Let us begin on that sacred road – as God’s beloved children choosing community together. Let us pray...

## OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Almighty and merciful God, you desire not the death of sinners, but that we turn from our waywardness to life.

**People: Create in us clean and contrite hearts that, acknowledging our sins and lamenting our brokenness, we may receive from you, merciful God, full remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## HYMN

*(scroll down to music)*

'Give Me a Clean Heart'

No. 515

## SCRIPTURE

### Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
    sound the alarm on my holy mountain!  
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,  
    for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
    a day of clouds and thick darkness!  
Like blackness spread upon the mountains  
    a great and powerful army comes;  
their like has never been from of old,  
    nor will be again after them  
    in ages to come

### Psalms 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 judgment.  
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 with hyssop, 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,  
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.



## RECEPTION OF THE ASHES *(at home)*

### HYMN

‘Now Sign Us with Ashes’

Text by Katrina Clinton

1. Now sign me with ashes. Anoint me with oil.  
From dust I came in dust I toil.  
Bless this my contrition, a penitent heart  
‘Til days are numbered and life is my art.
2. Now sign me with ashes. Anoint me with your balm.  
Redeem this soul by love’s ho-y calm.  
Rewind my sin and reframe my will  
In mercy may all my fear-storms be stilled.
3. Now sign me with ash-es. Sus-tain me with your salve.  
Let love’s inheritance free and save.  
Oh, bring me to Hea-ven’s gate blessed by abundant Grace  
Hearing your “Welcome” and seeing Christ’s face.

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

### INVITATION

Friends we are invited. Invited to join Jesus in his ministry of healing, bringing the marginalized into the fold, and proclaiming the good news of God's grace. Invited into the body of Christ through our baptism and the nurturing care of our Beloved Community. Friends, we are invited – and in this moment we are invited to join at this table to be nourished in body and in spirit. This table is open to all, and its edges extend far beyond our sanctuary here and into the places where God's children are in need of nourishment. We invite you to participate in this meal with whatever you may have at hand – bread and wine (or juice) or even crackers and water. Through God's incredible and miraculous spirit we will be connected in this sacred meal, nourished for the Lenten journey ahead of us.

### WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

As we gather for this meal, knowing full well where the road ahead will end, we remember that on the night before his betrayal Jesus sat at a small table in an upper room with his closest friends sharing a Passover meal.

While he was at the table Jesus took the bread, blessed it and gave thanks for it saying, "This is my body, given for you, as often as you eat it remember me."

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup and blessed it giving thanks and then said, "This is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for the forgiveness of sins for many. As often as you drink of it remember me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

### PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory. We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service in behalf of all people.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and on this cup, on our gifts, and on us. Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world. Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit lives forever. We pray these things in the name of your Son Jesus, who taught us to pray by saying...

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father (Creator), 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.**

## **BREAKING OF THE BREAD & POURING OF THE CUP**

In the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

In the cup poured out we participate in the new life that Christ brings.

## **SHARING THE ELEMENTS**

### **HYMN**

'Here, Savior, We Would Come'

No. 363

*(scroll down to music)*

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** *(in unison)*

**Almighty God we thank you. We thank you for the salvation that comes from the lifting up and the offering of your Son, Jesus Christ. We pray that you would guide us, walk with us, and show us your presence through this Lenten season. Let us be healed and strengthened for our lives of faith as we journey within ourselves and along the road to the cross. Let us be always aware of your presence and your peaceful mercy. Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

### **Participating in Today's Worship Service:**

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

Ann-Marie Illsley, Associate Pastor

Murray Kidd, Music Director

Sylvia Berry, Accompanist

Alisa Cassola, Soloist

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

Give me a clean heart so I may serve

This system contains the first line of the song. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and piano accompaniment in the lower two staves. The lyrics are: "Give me a clean heart so I may serve".

thee. Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by

This system contains the second line of the song. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and piano accompaniment in the lower two staves. The lyrics are: "thee. Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by".

thee. For I'm not worthy of all these bless -

This system contains the third line of the song. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and piano accompaniment in the lower two staves. The lyrics are: "thee. For I'm not worthy of all these bless -".

WORDS: Margaret J. Douroux  
MUSIC: Margaret J. Douroux; harm. Albert Denis Tessier

DOUROUX  
Irr.

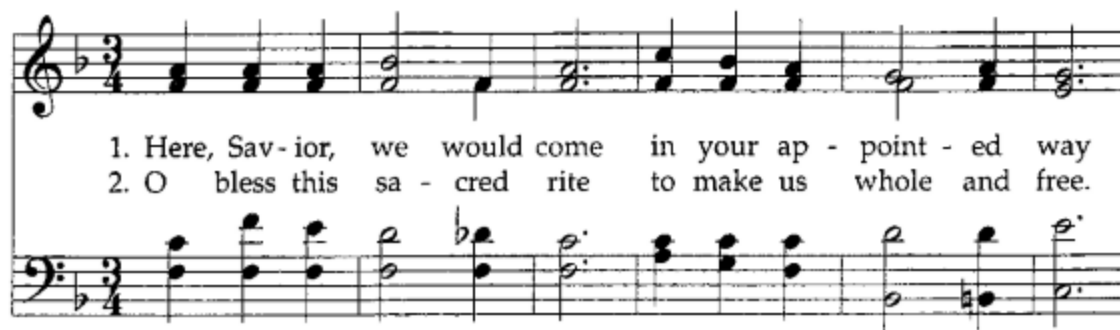
♩ = 56-60

ings. Give me a clean heart and I'll fol-low thee.

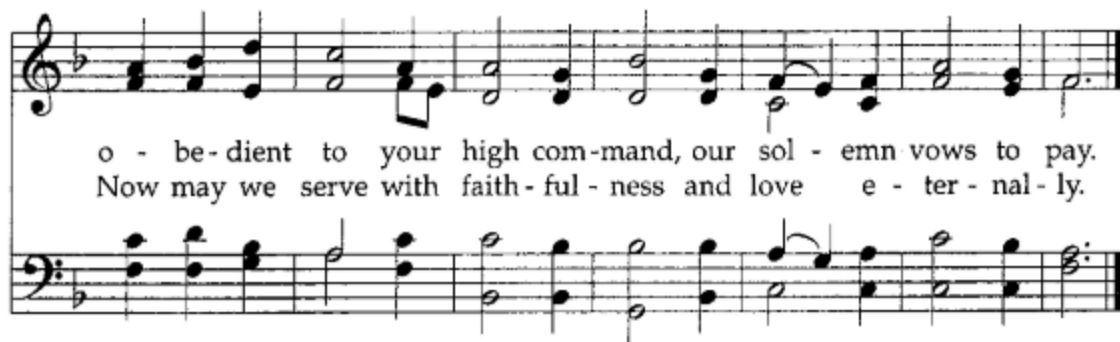
This system contains the final line of the song. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and piano accompaniment in the lower two staves. The lyrics are: "ings. Give me a clean heart and I'll fol-low thee.".

# Here, Savior, We Would Come

363



1. Here, Sav-ior, we would come in your ap - point - ed way  
2. O bless this sa - cred rite to make us whole and free.



o - be-dient to your high com-mand, our sol - emn vows to pay.  
Now may we serve with faith - ful - ness and love e - ter - nal - ly.

WORDS: Anonymous, from Alexander Campbell's *The Christian Hymnbook*, 1865, alt.  
MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1888

TRENTHAM  
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