

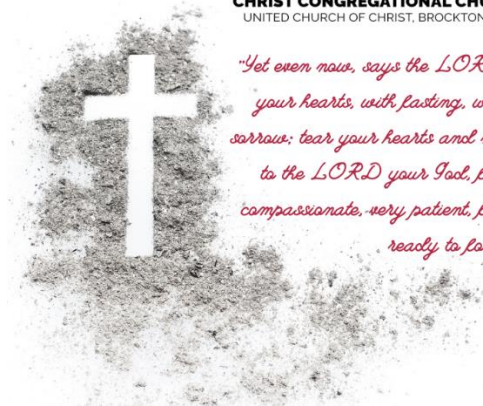
Ash Wednesday

March 2nd, 2022

7:00 PM



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



"Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your hearts, with fasting, with weeping, and with sorrow; tear your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, very patient, full of faithful love, and ready to forgive."

Joel 2:12-13

Welcome

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

'Be Thou My Vision' (verse 1)

No. 595

Reading of 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

Yet even now, says the LORD,
 return to me with all your hearts,
 with fasting, with weeping, and with sorrow;

tear your hearts
and not your clothing.
Return to the LORD your God,
for he is merciful and compassionate,
very patient, full of faithful love,
and ready to forgive.
Who knows whether he will have a change of heart
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the LORD your God?
Blow the horn in Zion;
demand a fast;
request a special assembly.
Gather the people;
prepare a holy meeting;
assemble the elders;
gather the children,
even nursing infants.
Let the groom leave his room
and the bride her chamber.
Between the porch and the altar
let the priests, the LORD's ministers, weep.
Let them say, "Have mercy, LORD, on your people,
and don't make your inheritance a disgrace,
an example of failure among the nations.
Why should they say among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'"

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 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.

Hymn

'Be Thou My Vision' (verse 2)

No. 595



Invitation

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

Lord's Prayer *(in unison)*

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

Invitation to Come Forward

**When invited forward by the pastors please come forward using the center aisle where you'll first receive your ashes, then you'll move to the kneeler at the bottom of the chancel steps for a silent moment of confession, and then you'll move to either side to pick up a pre-sealed communion cup – which you can then consume at your discretion when you get back to your seat.*

Anthem During the Imposition of Ashes

'Sign us With Ashes'

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.

Hymn

'Be Thou My Vision' (verses 3 & 4)

No. 595

Benediction

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

Rev. Ann-Marie Illsley, Associate Pastor

Murray Kidd, Music Director

Anton Faynberg, Organist

Alisa Cassola, Soloist

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

Be Thou My Vision

595

Unison

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4. Great God of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

thou my best thought by day or by night,
 thou my re - deem - er, my love thou hast won,
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
 Great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Ru - ler of all.

WORDS: Irish song (8th century); tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt.
 MUSIC: Traditional Irish melody; harm. Carlton R. Young, 1963

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