



Friends Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation



"Ash"

Mike Moyers (2016)

February 22, 2023

7:30 am

Ash Wednesday Service & Imposition of Ashes

GATHERING AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan De Leon

*CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

Dan De Leon

One: In your loving kindness,

All: Have compassion on us, God.

One: You want us to be honest.

All: Have compassion on us, God.

One: You invite us to tell the truth.

All: Have compassion on us, God.

One: You want to wash us clean.

All: Have compassion on us, God.

One: Have compassion on us, O God,

All: As we return to you.

*OPENING SONG: "PURIFY MY HEART"

Purify my heart...touch me with your cleansing fire.

Take me to the cross...Your holiness is my desire.

Breathe your life in me,

Kindle the love that flows from your throne.

Oh, purify my heart....Purify my heart.

*INVOCATION

Dan De Leon

PSALM READING: Psalm 51:1-12 (NRSV)

Brooke Dooley

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.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (CEB)

Trent Williams

Be careful that you don't practice your religion in front of people to draw their attention. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Whenever you give to the poor, don't blow your trumpet as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets so that they may get praise from people. I assure you, that's the only reward they'll get. But when you give to the poor, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing so that you may give to the poor in secret. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you. "When you pray, don't be like hypocrites. They love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners so that people will see them. I assure you, that's the only reward they'll get. But when you pray, go to your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you.

And when you fast, don't put on a sad face like the hypocrites. They distort their faces so people will know they are fasting. I assure you that they have their reward. When you fast, brush your hair and wash your face. Then you won't look like you are fasting to people, but only to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them. Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust don't eat them and where thieves don't break in and steal them. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

CALL TO PRAYER (RESPONSIVE)

Brooke Dooley

One: Move among us, God; give us life;

Many: Let your people rejoice in you.

One: Give us again the joy of your help;

Many: With your spirit of freedom sustain us.

One: God, make our hearts clean,

Many: Restore us in body, mind, and spirit.

One: Let us pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Trent Williams

One: Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness:
to the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

**Many: May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love. Amen.**

**Many: Before God, with the people of God, we confess to our brokenness:
to the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others,
and the life of the world.**

**One: May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the spirit enable you to grow in love. Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE NO. 283: "SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD"

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE (RESPONSIVE)

Brooke Dooley

One: With the whole church,

**Many: We affirm that we are made in God's image,
befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.**

One: With people everywhere,

**Many: We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity,
planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

One: With all creation,

**Many: We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life,
the unfolding purposes of God, forever at work in ourselves and the world.**

***IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

Brooke Dooley, Trent Williams

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LIGHTING OF CANDLES

Dan De Leon

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dan De Leon

**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 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 forever. Amen.**

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Trent Williams