

PRAYER of THANKSGIVING (in unison):

Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus; for gladness in this bread and cup; for love that cannot die; for peace the world cannot give; for joy in the company of friends; for the glory of creation; for the mission of justice you have made our own. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

A TIME FOR ASHES

Those who wish to receive ashes are invited to come forward. After everyone has received ashes and returned to their places:

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

Many: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

One: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

**Many: bring us with all your saints
to the joy of his resurrection.**

All: Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keeps us in eternal life. Amen

A TIME TO DEPART

Closing Hymn: Amazing Grace (verse 1)

Commission and Blessing

One: As our worship ends, our service continues;
the Holy Spirit goes with us wherever we go.

**Many: By the grace of God, we will do what God intends,
with kindness, purity and genuine love.**

Benediction

Ash Wednesday March 1, 2017



Doris Merrill

ALL ARE WELCOME

*“Friend, you enter this church not as a stranger,
but as a guest of God.*

*Come, then, with joy in your heart and thanks upon your lips,
and offer God today your love and your service.”*

(Adapted from a 12th Century Church in Hampshire, England)

*Please stand as you are able. **Bold print indicates Unison**

The Greatest Commandment:
Love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength.

A TIME FOR GATHERING

Welcome

Centering Poem "Blessing the Dust" by Jan Richardson

Hymn: "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

*Call to Worship

One: Welcome to a season of self-examination.

Many: **This is a time for reconciliation with God
And with our neighbor.**

***Prayer: With eagerness, yet trembling, we return to you,
O God, not just as individuals, but as a family of faith. In
this season of personal piety, we would enter into
corporate disciplines of prayer and praise and service.
May our prayers be honest and full of care for others.
Amen**

A TIME FOR CONFESSION

Call to Confession: Christians are sometimes labeled hypocrites. Do we appear pious only in church? Do we call attention to our good deeds for recognition and reward? God invites honest self-reflection and struggle toward authentic living.

Prayer of Confession: Help us, awesome God, to be honest with ourselves and with you. We want to change our wasteful, destructive ways. We want to be rid of the evil that weighs us down, the guilt that crushes our spirits. Have mercy on us as we remember and confess our sins in these moments of silent struggle. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness: God's forgiveness is real. God is gracious and merciful, restoring us to the joy of salvation.

A TIME FOR PRAYER

Hymn: "*Precious Lord*"

Precious Lord, take my hand
Lead me on, let me stand
I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm lone
Through the storm, through the night
Lead me on to the light
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

When my way grows drear precious Lord linger near
When my life is almost gone
Hear my cry, hear my call
Hold my hand lest I fall
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.

Precious Lord, take my hand
Lead me on, let me stand
I'm tired, I'm weak, Lord I'm worn
Through the storm, through the night
Lead me on to the light
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

Pastoral Prayer – followed by the Lord's Prayer (using sins/sinners)

A TIME FOR SCRIPTURE AND REFLECTION

Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8;
Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21

Reflection

A TIME FOR COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER of CONSECRATION

OUR SACRED STORY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING the MEAL