

A TIME FOR GATHERING

Welcome

Centering Poem "We Pray This Day" Ann Weems

***Hymn:** #188 Give Me A Clean Heart

***Call to Worship**

One: May the Holy Spirit join this gathering of seeking people.

Many: Let us open our hearts to receive God's gifts.

***Prayer: This is a time to be open to all of your Goodness. Open our minds to think new thoughts. Open our hands in generous sharing. Open our lips to declare your praise. We come here now trying ever so hard to be open to You. Amen**

A TIME FOR CONFESSION

Call to Confession: As we gather in this solemn assembly in response to God's invitation, we ask God to make us whole and to restore us to faithful service to our brother, the Christ.

Prayer of Confession: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love. According to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions. Wash us from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin. We confess our resistance to speaking directly to those who might offend us. We confess our habit of gossip and innuendo. Help us, O God, to be truthful with ourselves and with you, our beloved Creator as you guide us through our difficult walk with Christ on the way to the cross. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness: In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection, we can be assured that God forgives and restores us to the love of God, for nothing – absolutely nothing – can separate us from the love of God.

A TIME FOR PRAYER

Hymn: Veni Sancte Spiritus (Taizé)

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

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

CHOIR ANTHEM: Renew Us (Words by Herb Frombach; music by David Lantz III)

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: #547 Amazing Grace

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

We Pray This Day

By Ann Weems

O God, we pray this day:
For all who have a song they cannot sing,
For all who have a burden they cannot bear,
For all who live in chains they cannot break,
For all who wander homeless and cannot return,
For those who are sick and for those who tend them,
For those who wait for loved ones
And wait in vain,
For those who live in hunger
And for those who will not share their bread,
For those who are misunderstood
And for those who misunderstand,
For those who are captives and those that are captors,
For those whose words of love are locked within their
hearts
And for those who yearn to hear those words.

Have mercy upon these, O God,
Have mercy upon us all.

Ash Wednesday

AND TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN



REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE DUST

© Laura R. Norton

(c) Laura R. Norton, www.LettersAloft.com