



ASH WEDNESDAY

DUST THOU ART, AND UNTO
DUST SHALT THOU RETURN.

GENESIS 3:19



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

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Tel: 62824443, Fax: 6282 0094

1 March 2017

ASH WEDNESDAY

8.00 pm

Lighting of the Lenten Candle

Time of Silence (as organist plays softly)

Mr Ong Te-Min

***Call to Worship** (based on Joel 2:1-2, 12-17)

Pastor Timothy Yong

Leader: Blow the trumpet in Zion!
Sound the alarm on God's holy mountain.
Call all the people together—young and old.

People: **For the day of the Lord is coming,
a day unlike any other.**

Leader: Even now, God says, return to me with all your heart;
change your life, not just your clothes.

People: **Let us return to our God, and to God's ways.
For our God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and full of compassion and mercy.**

***Hymn of Praise**

"Ye Servants of God"

UMH 181

The palms that we waved last spring to welcome our Lord have been burned and reduced to ashes. The ashes are a sign of our mortality and our unworthiness, a reminder that we are incapable of saving our own souls. It is only by the gracious gift of God that we are forgiven, restored and blessed with a new life. We are dust and ashes, but God is merciful.

***Prayer of Confession & Silent Meditation**

Leader: Lord, we confess our sins before You.
We confess that we have fallen short of Your glory and Your intent for our lives.
Open our eyes that we may see ourselves with clarity and truthfulness,
that we may have eyes to see all of that within us that is not pleasing to You.

People: *(silent prayers)*
I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord; UMH 397
no tender voice like Thine can peace afford.
I need Thee, O I need Thee;
every hour I need Thee!
O bless me now, my Saviour,
I come to Thee.

Leader: Lord, we confess to You that we have not loved as we ought.
We have been impatient with others with whom we could have
been patient.
We have disregarded those You have called us to serve.
We have chosen the selfish way when You have called us to
selflessness.

People: *(silent prayers)*
I need Thee, O I need Thee;
every hour I need Thee!
O bless me now, my Saviour,
I come to Thee.

Leader Lord, we confess that we have not tended to the care of our
souls.
We have been too busy to pray.
We have been too quick to speak and too slow to listen for
You.
We have filled our lives with all kinds of noise instead of
patiently waiting like sheep for our Shepherd's voice.

People: *(silent prayers)*
I need Thee, O I need Thee;
every hour I need Thee!
O bless me now, my Saviour,
I come to Thee.

Leader Lord, we confess our need of You.
We need Your grace.
We need Your patience.
We need Your guidance.
We cannot see beyond the moment.
We cannot worship You as we ought.
As we look toward the cross,
we call upon Your mercy and Your love for our salvation.

People: *(silent prayers)*
I need Thee, O I need Thee;
every hour I need Thee!
O bless me now, my Saviour,
I come to Thee.

ALL: Lord, as we begin the journey of these 40 days, teach us the true meaning of penitence, so that we use this season to humbly seek a clean heart and a renewed spirit. We pray in the name Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (to be sung ~ Kam)

Organ Response

*Hymn of Preparation	“Are Ye Able”	UMH 530
Scripture Reading	Isaiah 58:1-14 <i>(TNIV p685)</i>	Mrs Patricia Zoey Tan
Sermon	“Going Through the Motions”	Mr Eddie Goh
*Hymn	“Abide with Me”	UMH 700
Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline		Pastor Alvin Chan

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

The early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation. During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism.

It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church.

In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

To make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now bow before our Creator and Redeemer.

Silent Prayer

Thanksgiving Over the Ashes

Almighty God, You have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that only by Your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Imposition of Ashes (The congregation to sing during imposition of ashes: UMH 351, 355, 358)

Pastor: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.
Turn away from sin, and be faithful to CHRIST. Amen.

*Reconciliation

The Almighty and Merciful God, Source of our salvation in Christ, who desires not the death of a sinner but rather that we turn from wickedness and live; accept your repentance, forgive your sins, and restore you by the Holy Spirit to newness of life. **Amen.**

***Hymn of Promise** “Lord, Who Throughout These UMH 269
Forty Days”

*Benediction

Organ Postlude

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*indicates congregation to stand



ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Eddie Goh is Lay Ministry Staff for our Mandarin Service for the past nine years. He previously served in Aldersgate Methodist Church. Eddie is married to Rebekah and they have two sons.

Ash Wednesday marks the first day of Lent. It is so called from the custom in the ancient church marking the foreheads of worshippers with ashes. The appointment of Ash Wednesday as the first day of Lent occurred sometime in the seventh century and the custom of imposing ashes upon the congregation probably from sometime in the eighth century. In the early church, Christians who had fallen into grave sin were admitted to the “order of penitents” to do their penance so that they could be reconciled to the church during Holy Week, ready for their Easter Communion. The widespread use of this form of public penance decreased in the early Middle Ages, but the ceremonies associated with it ~ notably the ashes ~ were extended to the whole congregation. The ashes are placed on the foreheads of the worshippers with the words, **“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”**