

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH



ASH WEDNESDAY

*Create in me a clean heart, O God; and put
a new and right spirit within me. Psalm 51:10*

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.**"

Thursday, 8.00pm Traditional Service

Preparing	Personal Silent Prayer & Meditation • Prelude
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Praising	*Call to Worship (<i>see p4</i>) *Hymn of Praise - “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” (UMH 626)
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Praying	Psalter - “Psalm 51:1-17” (UMH 785)
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Silent Prayer & Meditation

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.

Ash Wednesday Prayer (*in unison*) - UMH 353

O God,
Maker of every thing and judge of all that You have made,
from the dust of the earth You have formed us
and from the dust of death You would raise us up.

By the redemptive power of the cross,
create in us clean hearts
and put within us a new spirit,
that we may repent of our sins
and lead lives worthy of Your calling;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer (*sung* - Y Kam)

Organ Response

Proclaiming	*Hymn of Preparation - “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” (<i>see p5</i>) Scripture Reading - Luke 18:9-14 Sermon - “Pha or Pub” • Rev Paul Nga *Hymn - “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind” - UMH 358
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Participating Invitation to the Observance of Lent Discipline and Ritual

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

Thanks-giving 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

Hymn During Imposition of Ash - "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" (see p5) *(The congregation to sing while others come forward for the imposition of ashes)*

Pastor to guide the leaders with these words even as they impose the ashes on those who are in front of them as directed by the ushers:

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

Promising

*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 - "Fill My Eyes, O My God, With A Vision of the Cross" (twice) (see p5)**

***Benediction • Postlude**

(Please remain seated until after the Postlude and refrain from clapping)

** indicates congregation to stand*

CALL TO WORSHIP

(inspired by Joel 2:13-15; Hosea 14:1; Psalm 145:8; Zechariah 1:3)

Leader: Return to the Lord your God,

People: for God is gracious.

Leader: Confess to the Lord your God,

People: for God is merciful.

Leader: Repent to the Lord your God,

People: for God is slow to anger.

Leader: Praise the Lord your God,

People: for God abounds in steadfast love.

Leader: Worship the Lord your God.

People: May our hearts be renewed in this time of worship.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

CCLI # 15960. Author: Helen H Lemmel

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1. O soul, are you weary and troubled? No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Saviour, and life more abundant and free!

Chorus:

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face;

And the things of earth will grow strangely dim

In the light of His glory and grace.

2. Thru death into life everlasting He passed, and we follow Him there;
O'er us sin no more hath dominion for more than conquests we are! (*Chorus*)
 3. His Word shall not fail you He promised; Believe Him, and all will be well;
Then go to a world that is dying, His perfect salvation to tell! (*Chorus*)
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HYMN OF PROMISE

Fill My Eyes (*sing twice*)

CCLI # 175831. Author: Ken Chant

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Fill my eyes, oh my God, with a vision of the cross.

Fill my heart with love for Jesus the Nazarene.

Fill my mouth with Thy praise, let me sing, through endless days.

Take my will, let my life be wholly Thine.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sat, 4.30pm

The Saturday Service (Contemporary)
@ Emmanuel Hall, L2

Sun, 9.45am

The Sunday Contemporary Service
@ Emmanuel Hall, L2

Sun, 11:30am

Mandarin Service
@ Sanctuary, L1

Sun, 8.00am

English Service (Traditional)
@ Sanctuary, L1

Sun, 9:45am

English Service (Traditional)
@ Sanctuary, L1

Children's Ministry

9:45am
@ Hallelujah @ L3

PASTORAL TEAM & USEFUL CONTACTS

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For a snapshot of all church events, please visit
www.tmc.org.sg/calendar.html

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