

2 March 2022



ASH WEDNESDAY

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:14-16

Wednesday, 8:00pm
Traditional Service

PREPARING

Personal Silent Prayer & Meditation

Prelude

Mr Nicholas Leow

Proclamation

John 15:12-13

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

PRAISING

***Call to Worship**

Rev Alvin Chan

(Genesis 2:7; 3: 19 Psalm 104: 29-30; John 1: 18)

Leader: In the middle of our busy week, we pause to observe Ash Wednesday together as a faith community.

People: We come to remember that God made us from fragile, blessed dust, and breathes through us the breath of life and love.

Leader: From dust we are created in God's image and to God's good dust we shall return.

People: With dust and oil we claim the mark of God's beloved creature.

Leader: Today we begin our 40-day Lenten journey to discover who we are created to be as God's beloved.

People: In daily practices of prayer and service we will embark upon this Lenten journey.

Leader: We follow Jesus, God's Beloved Child, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh; in whom we see God's image most clearly.

All: So come, let us pray for strength and focus to follow Jesus wherever He will lead us this Lent.

(To be READ confidently, with gusto)

1. What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.
2. Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.
3. Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.

PRAYING

Silent Reflection, 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 (said in unison)

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever. Amen**

Organ Response

PROCLAIMING

Hymn of Preparation

"It Is Well with My Soul"

UMH 377

(To be READ reflectively & meditatively)

1. When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain:

*It is well with my soul,
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed His own blood for my soul. *(Refrain)*
3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *(Refrain)*
4. And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
even so, it is well with my soul. *(Refrain)*

Scripture Text:

Hebrews 4:11-16

¹¹ Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. ¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And no creature is hidden from His sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Reflection

“Our Great High Priest:
7 Real-life Struggles”

Rev Paul Nga

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

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

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

Hymn During Imposition of Ash "Are Ye Able"

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 "He Touched Me"

UMH 367

(To be READ reflectively & meditatively)

1. Shackled by a heavy burden,
neath a load of guilt and shame,
then the hand of Jesus touched me,
and now I am no longer the same.

Refrain:

*He touched me, O He touched me,
and O the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened, and now I know,
He touched me and made me whole.*

2. Since I met this blessed Saviour,
since He cleansed and made me whole,
I will never cease to praise Him;
I'll shout it while eternity rolls. *(Refrain)*

*Benediction

Postlude