



Ash Wednesday

Evening, February 17, 2010

St. John's Chapel United Church of Christ
4344 South Fremont Avenue
Springfield, Missouri
www.stjohnschapel.org

Liturgist: Shirley Datema

7:00 P.M.

(*Indicates when all who are able to please stand.)

Gathering

"Two Psalm Reflections"

Haan

I. Entreaty-Psalm 55: 1

II. Plaint-Psalm 69: 17, 18

As we gather for worship we invite you to observe silence and enter into reflection.

The theme of tonight's worship will focus on the fast we choose for Lent that is pleasing to God. You might want to read and reflect on Isaiah 58: 1-12.

Space to write down your thoughts: _____

Or you may wish to light a candle at the Communion table to symbolize the concerns or joys you carry with you to worship, or whatever is in your heart and mind. Or you may wish to reflect where you are seated, or please walk around the sanctuary and reflect upon images you encounter.

Lighting of Candles

Acolyte: Grace Harper

Meditative Hymn

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

No. 245

Please remain seated for this hymn and let it be a part of your meditation and reflection.

***Call to Celebration**

Leader: The grace of Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Bless God, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

People: Bless God, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits.

Leader: Who forgives all our sins and heals all our infirmities;

People: Who redeems our life from the grave, and crowns us with mercy and loving-kindness.

***Opening Prayer**

Almighty and everlasting God, You forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins, may obtain of You, God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

***Hymn of Celebration**

"How Great Thou Art"

No. 33

The Pastoral Prayer

(There will be moments of silence throughout this time of prayer. The words of the prayer are printed to assist in your reflections.)

Accomplish in us this evening, the work of Your salvation, O God. Help us choose to accept Your instruction on how to prepare ourselves to walk the Lenten journey. In the forty days You set before us, lead us into the desert from which we can emerge Your people once more. Open our eyes to Your presence in the world and Your longing for us to loose the bonds of injustice, for us to let the oppressed go free, for us to share our bread with the hungry, for us to stop pointing our finger (laying the blame on others without taking inventory of our own sin), and, for us finally to let love rule supreme.

Silence

Be with us on our journey to Jerusalem and to the cross, for without You, we are lost. Pour over us the water of rebirth. Hover over us, as first Your Spirit lingered over creation. Renew us, re-create us, prepare us for our confrontation with evil.

Silence

We look forward to the age of peace, when violence is banished, when all Your people are able to love and be loved. Show us the good works we can do to hasten Your reign on earth. Let us find You, dear God, in our attention to others' needs—let us not forget the ill, the broken hearted, the forgotten...not only of this congregation but throughout Your world. Show us to whom You wish to send us. And show us the places of injustice to which You wish for us to go and stand on Your behalf.

Silence

This we ask, in Thy most gracious name, knowing You will forever and always provide the best for all concerned. Amen.

Offertory "Pastorale on 'The Humble Heart' " Clarke

***Doxology** ("Praise God," No. 7 in *Sing to the Lord*)

Scripture Reading Isaiah 58: 1-12 p. 674

Sermon "The Fast We Choose" The Rev. Becky A. Hebert

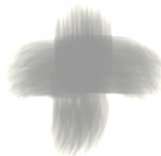
***Hymn** "Lamb of Glory" No. 220

Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline

Thanksgiving over the Ashes *(in unison)*

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

*At this time you are invited to come forward and receive the ashes as part of your confession and as a sign of mortality and penitence. The minister will say as she places the ashes on your forehead, "Remember, that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Your response can be, "**But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**"*



The Receiving of the Ashes

***The Assurance of Forgiveness**

Pastor: 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. God accepts our repentance, forgives our sins, and restores us by the Holy Spirit to newness of life.

People: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

***Gloria Patri** ("Glory to the Father," No. 9 in *Sing to the Lord*)

***The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

***The Invitation**

Pastor: Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

All: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

Pastor: This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

***The Lord's Prayer** (*using debts and debtors*)

The Blessing of the Bread and the Cup

The Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Please come forward to receive communion by intinction. The challis with grape juice is marked.

***The Prayer of Thanksgiving** (*in unison*)

We give thanks, Almighty God, that You have refreshed us at Your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior .

***Closing Hymn** "Near to the Heart of God" No. 621

***Benediction**

***Moment of Silence**

Organ Postlude "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" Stearns

2010 LENTEN CALENDAR			
February 17	Ash Wednesday, 7:30 pm	March 21	Fifth Sunday of Lent
February 21	First Sunday of Lent		Confirmands Presented
February 28	Second Sunday of Lent		
March 7	Third Sunday of Lent	March 28	Palm Sunday
	Communion		Confirmands Confirmed
March 14	Fourth Sunday of Lent, One Great Hour of Sharing		Sunday Service, 10:30 am
Maundy Thursday Service followed by Labyrinth Walk, 7:30 pm			
Stations of the Cross at the Labyrinth, At will on Good Friday			
APRIL 4 EASTER SUNDAY~COMMUNION			

St. John's Chapel UCC is called to love unconditionally, seek justice, foster spiritual growth, and embrace diversity of thought and body as taught by Jesus Christ.