

FAIRMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Service for the Worship of God

Fairmont Presbyterian Church nurtures and guides people to live inspired lives.

February 17, 2021

7:00pm

Ash Wednesday

Prelude

Call to Worship

Leader: God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

People: God's love endures forever.

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

People: God's love endures forever.

Opening Prayer

Hymn 796

We Come to You for Healing, Lord

Land of Rest

1 We come to you for healing, Lord,
of body, mind, and soul,
and pray that by your Spirit's touch
we may again be whole.

2 As once you walked through ancient streets
and reached toward those in pain,
we know you come among us still
with power to heal again.

3 You touch us through physicians' skills,
through nurses' gifts of care,
and through the love of faithful friends
who lift our lives in prayer.

4 Through nights of pain and wakefulness,
through days when strength runs low,
grant us your gift of patience, Lord,
your calming peace to know.

5 We come to you, O loving Lord,
in our distress and pain,

in trust that through our nights and days
your grace will heal, sustain.

Litany of Penitence

Leader: Let us pray.

People: Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have lost ourselves in sin, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

Leader: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have lost ourselves in our fears.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness: The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

People: we confess to you, O God.

Leader: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,

People: we confess to you, O God.

Leader: Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

People: we confess to you, O God.

Leader: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

People: we confess to you, O God.

Leader: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

People: we confess to you, O God.

Leader: Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

People: accept our repentance, O God.

Leader: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

People: accept our repentance, O God.

Leader: Accept us as we are O God, confused, anxious, lonely, and far from you. On our own, we cannot overcome our separation from you. So, we turn to you, our redeemer.

People: Accept us, O God, for your mercy is great. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Isaiah 58:3-12

“Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today

will not make your voice heard on high.
Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bull rush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?
Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Anthem

What Wondrous Love Is This?
Lisa M. Hess, *soloist*

arr. N. Grundahl

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

So, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace

of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Meditation

Speaking the Truth

Rev. Brian Maguire

Hymn 775

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Walk With Me

1 I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

3 When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Psalm 51

Read Responsively

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant Mercy blot out my transgressions.

People: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Leader: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

People: Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

Leader: Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

People: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Leader: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

People: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

Leader: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

People: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Leader: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

People: Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline

Prayer

Imposition of Ashes

*We invite you to mark the sign of the cross on your forehead or hand in ashes or dust.
Remember that you are dust, and to the dust you shall return. Genesis 3:19*

Hymn 803

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need (Psalm 23)

Resignation

1 My shepherd will supply my need;
Jehovah is his name.
In pastures fresh he makes me feed,
beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back
when I forsake his ways,
and leads me, for his mercy's sake,
in paths of truth and grace.

2 When I walk through the shades of death
your presence is my stay;
one word of your supporting breath
drives all my fears away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes,
does still my table spread;
my cup with blessings overflows;
your oil anoints my head.

3 The sure provisions of my God
attend me all my days;
O may your house be my abode,
and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest,
while others go and come;
no more a stranger, or a guest,
but like a child at home.

Charge and Benediction

Music and words are used with permission of CCLI License #930368

We Come to You for Healing, Lord 796

1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of
 2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and
 3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through
 4 Through nights of pain and wake - ful - ness, through
 5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in

bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your
 reached toward those in pain, we know you come a -
 nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of
 days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of
 our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our

Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.
 mong us still with power to heal a - gain.
 faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.
 pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.
 nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

Unlike many hymns on the theme of healing, this text appropriately includes the ministry of medical personnel as instruments of God's healing activity. It also acknowledges that illness is not limited to physical symptoms, but involves mental, emotional, and spiritual dimensions.

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me 775

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

The two equal phrases in each line suggest that this African American spiritual shares some characteristics of work or field songs that were used to coordinate the efforts of slaves involved in tasks (road clearing, ditch digging, etc.) that needed combined rhythmic strokes.

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need 803

(Psalm 23)

1 My shep-herd will sup-ply my need; Je-ho-vah is his name.
 2 When I walk through the shades of death your pres-ence is my stay;
 3 The sure pro-vi-sions of my God at-tend me all my days;

In pas-tures fresh he makes me feed, be-side the liv-ing stream.
 one word of your sup-port-ing breath drives all my fears a-way.
 O may your house be my a-bode, and all my work be praise.

He brings my wan-dering spir-it back when I for-sake his ways,
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta-ble spread;
 There would I find a set-tled rest, while oth-ers go and come;

and leads me, for his mer-cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
 my cup with bless-ings o-ver-flows; your oil a-noints my head.
 no more a strang-er, or a guest, but like a child at home.

The effectiveness of this beloved paraphrase of Psalm 23 owes much to the flowing shape note melody that serves as a "living stream" to carry the text, which in turn has been given a remarkable clarity and lightness through the poet's masterful use of single-syllable words.

