

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024, 12:15 and 6:30 p.m.

Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

– Joel 2.12-13

Prelude

Call to Worship (*responsive*)

Everything that happens on earth
happens at the time God chooses.

**God sets the time for birth and the time for death,
the time for sorrow and the time for joy,**

the time for tearing and the time for mending,
the time for scattering and the time for gathering,
**the time for seeking and the time for losing,
the time for keeping silence and the time for speaking.**

Everything that happens on earth
happens at the time God chooses.

***I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art / Hymn 634** (*stanzas 1, 3, 5*)

TOULON

Prayer of Confession / Psalm 51 (*responsive*)

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

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

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

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.**

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

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

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

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit. Amen.**

You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy! / Hymn 437

WAYFARING STRANGER

Reading / Joel 2.1-2, 12-19

... continued on reverse

Meditation / "Ash Wednesday: A Love Story"

Dwight Christenbury

***What Wondrous Love Is This / Hymn 215** (verses 1-2)

WONDROUS LOVE

Imposition of Ashes

You are invited, but not required, to come forward to receive on your forehead the sign of ashes, which symbolizes and reminds us not only of our mortality but also of our ultimate dependence upon God, our faithful Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Prayer

***What Wondrous Love Is This / Hymn 215** (verses 3-4)

WONDROUS LOVE

*Sending

*Why not
Affirm yourself this Lent,
Be kind and gentle to your you,
Go walking, learn to breathe, read a book,
Know bread and wine and flesh,
Love yourself
Enough to give it
As a gift of love to life,
Or death,
Share hope with one who mourns,
Grief with one who laughs,
And rediscover all the yous
You left behind in getting to this place
From which, with ashes on your head, you go
In search of Easter?*

– J. Barrie Shepherd

Postlude

*, please stand in body or spirit.

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Join us for Sunday worship: 8:30 and 11:00 A.M.

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