

All Saints' Anglican Church, Westboro
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All Saints' Westboro

Ash
Wednesday

February 17th, 2021

7:00 pm

Zoom service that will also be recorded

The Ven. Christopher Dunn
The Rev. Simone Hurkmans
The Rev. Deacon Dr. Jarrett Carty
Music: Edith Troup
Children and Youth: Julie Newlands

Celebrant: Dear friends, we gather this day on the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabeg people.

People: May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

(silence)

Almighty and everlasting God,
People: you despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A Reading from Joel (2:1-2, 12-17a) *Read by Eleanor Conn*

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. 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 God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink

offering for the Lord, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations."

Reader: Hear what the spirit is saying to the Church.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:8-18

Celebrant: You are full of compassion and mercy,

People: slow to anger and of great kindness.

Celebrant: You will not always accuse us,

People: nor will you keep your anger for ever.

Celebrant: You have not dealt with us according to our sins,

People: nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

Celebrant: For as the heavens are high above the earth,

People: so is your mercy great upon those who fear you.

Celebrant: As far as the east is from the west,

People: so far have you removed our sins from us.

Celebrant: As parents care for their children,

People: so do you, O Lord, care for those who fear you.

Celebrant: For you yourself know whereof we are made;

People: you remember that we are but dust.

Celebrant: Our days are like the grass;

People: we flourish like a flower of the field;

Celebrant: when the wind goes over it, it is gone,
People: and its place shall know it no more.

Celebrant: But your merciful goodness endures for ever on those who fear you,

People: and your righteousness on children's children;

Celebrant: on those who keep the covenant

People: and remember the commandments and do them.

A Reading from 2 Corinthians (5:20b-6:10)

Read by Eleanor Conn

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, labours, 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 honour and dishonour, 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.

Reader: Hear what the spirit is saying to the Church.

People: Thanks be to God.

Giver of the perfect gift,
only hope of human race,
hear the prayer our hearts uplift,
trembling at thy throne of grace.

Though the accusing voice within
speaks of many a wrong to thee,
thou canst cleanse from every sin;
thou canst set the conscience free.

Who can save us, Lord, but thou?
Let thy mercy show thy power.
Lo, we plead thy promise now,
now, in this the accepted hour.

Oh! may these our Lenten days,
blest by thee, with thee be passed,
that with purer, nobler praise
we may keep thy feast at last.

God the holy Trinity,
grant the mercy we implore;
God the One, all praise to thee
through the ages evermore.

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew (6:1-6, 16-21)

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But

when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ, every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery. We begin this holy season by remembering our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I invite you therefore, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent by

self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God. Let us pray to our Creator and Redeemer.

(silence)

Psalm 51:1-17

Celebrant: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;

People: in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Celebrant: Wash me through and through from my wickedness

People: and cleanse me from my sin.

Celebrant: For I know my transgressions,

People: and my sin is ever before me.

Celebrant: Against you only have I sinned

People: and done what is evil in your sight.

Celebrant: And so you are justified when you speak

People: and upright in your judgement.

Celebrant: Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,

People: a sinner from my mother's womb.

Celebrant: For behold, you look for truth deep within me,

People: and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

Celebrant: Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;

People: wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

Celebrant: Make me hear of joy and gladness,

People: that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Celebrant: Hide your face from my sins

People: and blot out all my iniquities.

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

Celebrant: Cast me not away from your presence
People: and take not your holy Spirit from me.

Celebrant: Give me the joy of your saving help again
People: and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Celebrant: I shall teach your ways to the wicked,
People: and sinners shall return to you.

Celebrant: Deliver me from death, O God,
People: and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

Celebrant: Open my lips, O Lord,
People: and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Celebrant: Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,
People: but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

Celebrant: The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
People: a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Celebrant: Most holy and merciful God,
People: we confess to you, to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

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

People: Have mercy on us, Lord.

Celebrant: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

People: Have mercy on us, Lord.

Celebrant: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

People: We confess to you, Lord.

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

People: We confess to you, Lord.

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

People: We confess to you, Lord.

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

People: We confess to you, Lord.

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

People: We confess to you, Lord.

Celebrant: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

People: Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

People: Accept our repentance, Lord.

Celebrant: For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

People: Accept our repentance, Lord.

Celebrant: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

People: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

Celebrant: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

People: That we may show forth your glory in the world.

Celebrant: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord,

People: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People: Amen.

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you,

People: And also with you.

Hymn: Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

#614

Forgive our sins as we forgive,
you taught us, Lord, to pray;
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs, and will not let
old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew:
what trivial debts are owed to us,
how great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls
and bid resentment cease;
then, bound to all in bonds of love,
our lives will spread your peace.

Celebrant: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we say,

People: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant: God of compassion,

People: through your Son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: All your works praise you, O Lord.

People: And your faithful servants bless you. Gracious God, we long for the time when we can be fed by the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. May we, who look to the time when we can share his body, live his risen life; we, who wait with expectation to drink his cup, bring life to others; we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise you name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: Pray quietly, God is listening.

People: We will confess openly, for God is forgiving.

Celebrant: Pray from the heart, God encourages us.

People: We will hold nothing back, for God is with us.

Celebrant: Pray in community, God binds us together.

People: We will pray for each other, and we will be strengthened.

Celebrant: Pray in the spirit of Jesus, his love goes with us.

People: We will pray confidently, and root his love in action.

Celebrant And the blessing

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Credits:

Readings from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

Psalms for this service are reprinted from A Liturgical Psalter, General Synod 2016 edition, the psalter of the Book of Alternative Services emended for contemporary liturgical use

Liturgical texts from The Book of Alternative Services

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