



Ash Wednesday

22 February 2023

Cover Art

The burning of 2022 palms

Banners

Esther Grey

Stair Caps

Mailboxes with seed pods by Landon Shire, Dirk Edwards, and Tom Peck

Frames

Robert J. Hoffman (1930-2017), Barbara Knuckles' father

Hanging Installation

"Letters of Hope" by Nick Dodge & Michael Taft with the Fossy Posse

Much like Luke's Gospel, dedicated to Theophilus, comes as a message of hope about Jesus' coming into the world, these hanging letters are meant to remind us of different words of hope we have heard from God and our loved ones this Advent Season. Most of these letters are simply white but if you look closely some of them are misted with gold paint, reminding us of the divine words that come through ordinary letters.

Seedpod Sketches

Creatives Class

South Window

Molly Kelley

Communion Set

David Holliday

Meditation

*“Evil is not just our bad behavior,
evil is how dead we can be to God
even with our good behavior.”*

– Ray Ortland

Welcome

Silence

Opening Hymn

“Immortal Invisible”

All

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most glorious, most holy, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains high, soaring above;
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish, but naught changest thee.**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render, O help us to see,
’Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

words Walter C. Smith, 1867; on 1 Tim 1:17; Welsh melody from Canaidau y Cyssegr, John Roberts, 1839; arr. Nathan Partain, 2011

Call to Repentance and Confession

from *Heidelberg Catechism*, Q&A's 88-90; Acts 3:18

Leader Genuine repentance involves two things:
the dying-away of the old self and the coming-to-life of the new.
The dying-away of the old self is to be genuinely sorry for sin,
to hate it more and more, and to run away from it.
The coming-to-life of the new self is wholehearted joy in God through Christ
and a delight to do every kind of good as God wants us to.

Together, as Christ's body, we now confess our sin
and express our longing to live in joyful obedience to God.

All **Peter preached to the church saying:
"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out,
and that times of refreshing may come from the Lord."**

Leader Sisters and brothers, in our flesh, we are right in our own eyes.

All **We believe that we see clearly.
We think most highly of our perspective and much less of others,
disrespecting the image of God and the work of Jesus Christ in them.
We even judge our Father against our own opinions.**

Leader More than that, we live without regard for the purposes
of Jesus our Redeemer and King.

All **We hold back our obedience,
bound up in fears of what we think we will lose,
driven by desires we think will give us peace,
And protecting ourselves because we do not trust the will of Jesus.**

Leader We believe in the idea of God but live in our own way.

All **Holy Spirit, wake us up from our arrogance,
Bring us to our end and meet us there,
Lead us into helplessness and train our hearts,
Give us no way out and form us in your perfect love.**

Leader True wisdom can only grow from a heart yielded to God.

All **True understanding can only be gained by following him.**

Leader True joy can only be found in seeking what he desires.

All **In him alone is fullness of life.**

Song of Need

“Hold Thou my Hand”

All **Hold thou my hand; so weak I am, and helpless,
I dare not take one step without thy aid;
Hold thou my hand; for then, O loving Savior,
No dread of ill shall make my soul afraid.**

**Hold thou my hand, and closer, draw me closer,
To thy dear self, my hope, my joy, my all;
Hold thou my hand, lest haply I should wander,
And, missing thee, my trembling feet should fall.**

**Hold thou my hand; the way is dark before me,
Without the sunlight of thy face divine;
But when by faith, I catch its radiant glory,
What heights of joy, what rapturous songs are mine!**

words Fanny Crosby, 1879; music Nathan Partain, 2003

Assurance of Pardon

from Heidelberg Catechism, Question & Answer 1

Leader Dear children, what is your only hope in life and in death?

All **That we are not our own,
but belong body and soul, both in life and in death,
to our faithful savior Jesus Christ,
who has fully paid for all of our sins.**

Leader He has set you free from the tyranny of the devil.

All **Yes, and he also preserves our lives in such a way,
that without the will of our heavenly Father not a hair can fall from our heads;
indeed, all things must work together for our salvation.**

Leader Because you belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures you of eternal life,

All **And he makes us whole-heartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

Song of Need

"Hold Thou my Hand"

All **Hold thou my hand, that when I reach the margin,
Of that lone river thou didst cross for me,
A heavenly light may flash along its waters,
And every wave like crystal bright shall be.**

**Hold thou my hand; so weak I am, and helpless,
I dare not take one step without thy aid;
I dare not take one step without thy aid.**

words Fanny Crosby, 1879; music Nathan Partain, 2003

Hymn

"You Have Redeemed my Soul"

All **You have redeemed my soul from the pit of emptiness,
You have redeemed my soul from death.
You have redeemed my soul from the pit of emptiness,
You have redeemed my soul from death.**

**I was a hungry child,
A dried up river.
I was a burned out forest,
And no one could do anything for me.**

**But you put food in my body, water in my dry bed,
And to my blackened branches,
You brought the spring time green of a new life.
And nothing is impossible for you.**

**You have redeemed my soul from the pit of emptiness,
You have redeemed my soul from death.
You have redeemed my soul from the pit of emptiness,
You have redeemed my soul from death.**

Don Chaffer, 1999

Lesson 1

Luke 18:9-14

Reader

Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I’m certainly not like that tax collector! I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’

“But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’ I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Hymn

“You Have Redeemed my Soul”

All

**I was a hungry child,
A dried up river.
I was a burned out forest,
And no one could do anything for me.**

**But you put food in my body, water in my dry bed,
And to my blackened branches,
You brought the spring time green of a new life.
And nothing is impossible for you.**

**You have redeemed my soul from the pit of emptiness,
You have redeemed my soul from death.
You have redeemed my soul from the pit of emptiness,
You have redeemed my soul from death.**

Don Chaffer, 1999

Lesson 2

from Mark 7:24-30

Reader

Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet. The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter.

“First let the children eat all they want,” he told her, “for it is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

“Lord,” she replied, “even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”

Then he told her, “For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter.”

She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Hymn

“Lord Jesus Christ Be Present Now”

All

**Lord Jesus Christ, be present now, our hearts in true devotion bow;
Thy Spirit send with grace divine, and let thy truth within us shine.
Lord Jesus Christ, be present now.**

**Unseal our lips to sing thy praise, our souls to thee in worship raise;
Make strong our faith, increase our light, That we may know thy name aright.
Lord Jesus Christ, be present now.**

**Until we join the hosts that cry, “Holy art thou, O Lord, Most High!”
And in the light of that blest place, fore’er behold thee face to face.
Lord Jesus Christ, be present now.**

**Glory to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To thee, O blessed Trinity, be praise throughout eternity!
Lord Jesus Christ, be present now.
Lord Jesus Christ, be present now.
Lord Jesus Christ, be present now.**

words Duke Wilhelm II, 1651; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; music Nathan Partain, 2001

Special Song

Scripture

Romans 1:18–21

Reader

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

*Reader
People*

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Homily

Nicholas McDonald

Prayers of the People

Leader

Answer us when we call to you, our righteous God.

People

**Give me relief from my distress;
be merciful to me and hear my prayer.**

(prayers offered from the congregation aloud)

Doxology

All

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Amen.**

Explanation of Ashes

Prayer for Lent

Leader We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes.
This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life,
calls us to heartfelt repentance,
and urges us to place our hope in God alone.

People **Almighty God,
you have created us out of the dust of the earth.
May these ashes remind us of our mortality and penitence,
and teach us again that only by your gracious gift,
are we given everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

Amen.

Benediction

based on 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Leader May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely;
and may your spirit and soul and body
be kept sound and blameless
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

People **Amen**

Imposition of Ashes

from Psalm 103:14

Leader

Your Father knows how you are formed. He remembers that you are dust.

Questions for Reflection

What are my characteristic sins, and do I still hope in God and pray for change?

What idols have captured my imagination so that my love for the living God has grown cold?

Is there anything that I am holding back from God? (Relationships, Money, Plans, Dreams, where I say "No" to God's lordship?)

In what ways is my devotion to Christ and His church less than wholehearted?

Am I building my life on Christ's free justification or am I insecure and guilt-ridden?

Have I done anything simply because I love Jesus?

Have I stopped doing something simply because I love Jesus?

Song of Dependence

“Jesus Thy Boundless Love to Me”

Leader

Jesus, Thy boundless love to me, no thought can reach, no tongue declare;
Unite my thankful heart with Thee, and reign without a rival there.
To Thee alone, dear Lord, I live; myself to Thee, dear Lord, I give.
Myself to Thee, dear Lord, I give.

O, grant that nothing in my soul, may dwell but Thy pure love alone!
Oh, may Thy love possess me whole, my joy, my treasure, and my crown!
All coldness from my heart remove; my every act, word, thought, be love.
My every act, word, thought, be love.

This love unwearied I pursue, and dauntlessly to Thee aspire.
Oh, may Thy love my hope renew, burn in my soul like heavenly fire!
And day and night be all my care, to guard this sacred treasure there.
To guard this sacred treasure there.

O that I, as a little child, may follow Thee, and never rest
Till sweetly Thou hast breathed Thy mild, and lowly mind into my breast!
Nor ever may we parted be, till I become as one with Thee.
Till I become as one with Thee.

Paul Gerhardt, 1653, translated from German to English by John Wesley, 1739; Nathan Partain, August 3, 2011

Song of Dependence

“Just as I Am”

Leader

Just as I am, without one plea, but that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee, O Lamb I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about, confused, conflicted, full of doubts,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb I come.
Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all in Thee I need to find, O Lamb I come.

Just as I am I come,
Receiving all you’ve done
And covered by your blood,
I’m held within your love.

Just as I am, Thy love unknown, hath broken every barrier down;
Now, to be Thine and Thine alone, O Lamb I come.
Just as I am, Thou will receive, will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb I come.

Just as I am I come,
Receiving all you’ve done
And covered by your blood,
I’m held within your love.

You’ve won for me full forgiveness, just as I am O Lamb I come.
Set free from fear, I can confess, just as I am O Lamb I come.
I leave my rags of righteousness, just as I am O Lamb I come.
For now I wear your Holiness, just as I am O Lamb I come.

Just as I am I come,
Receiving all you’ve done
And covered by your blood,
I’m held within your love.

words: Charlotte Elliott, 1835/alt.lyrics: Nathan Partain, 2011; music: Nathan Partain, 2011

Song of Dependence

“Weak and Helpless, yet Believing”

Leader

O my Savior, I am weary!
Let my cry to Thee ascend
While in humble supplication
Now before Thy throne I bend!

Weak and helpless, yet believing,
Casting all my care on Thee,
I am hoping, trusting, praying;
Have compassion, Lord, on me!

O my Savior, tho' unworthy,
I have nowhere else to go;
Thou canst pardon my transgressions,
Thou canst wash me white as snow!

Weak and helpless, yet believing,
Casting all my care on Thee,
I am hoping, trusting, praying;
Have compassion, Lord, on me!

O my Savior, by Thy Spirit
Thou hast called me o'er and o'er;
Now repentant I am coming;
Lord, my wand'ring soul restore!

Weak and helpless, yet believing,
Casting all my care on Thee,
I am hoping, trusting, praying;
Have compassion, Lord, on me!

O my Savior, do not leave me
Here to perish at Thy throne;
In Thy tender, loving mercy
Cleanse and make me all Thine own!

Weak and helpless, yet believing,
Casting all my care on Thee,
I am hoping, trusting, praying;
Have compassion, Lord, on me!

words: Fanny Crosby (1820-1915); music: Mark Ribera, 2011

Song of Dependence

"I Asked the Lord"

Leader

I asked the Lord that I might grow, in faith and love and every grace,
Might more of his salvation know, and seek more earnestly his face.
’Twas he who taught me thus to pray, and he I trust has answered prayer,
But it has been in such a way, as almost drove me to despair.

I hoped that in some favored hour, at once he’d answer my request,
And by his love’s constraining power, subdue my sins and give me rest.
Instead of this, he made me feel, the hidden evils of my heart,
And let the angry powers of hell, assault my soul in every part.

Yea more with his own hand he seemed, intent to aggravate my woe,
Crossed all the fair designs I schemed, cast out my feelings, laid me low.
Lord why is this, I trembling cried, wilt thou pursue thy worm to death?
“’Tis in this way” the Lord replied, “I answer prayer for grace and faith.”

“These inward trials I employ, from self and pride to set thee free,
And break thy schemes of earthly joy, that thou mayest seek thy all in me,
That thou mayest seek thy all in me.”

words: John Newton (alt. Laura Taylor); music: Laura Taylor, 2004

Song of Dependence

"He Bears My Soul"

Leader

The wolves outside are hunting and the dark of night is full,
And in my heart a wilder fear that I cannot control.
I'm helpless to get out, I feel I'm drowning all alone,
Yet in my great distress I pray, and there He bears my soul.

This house was left abandoned, I sleep curled up on the floor,
My mind caves in with sorrows till I can't breathe anymore.
I see no hope tomorrow, all the joy of life is cold,
By fingertips I hang from faith and there He bears my soul.

My Lord shall never cease to stand with blood to intercede,
His Spirit groans in patient love and ceaseless prays for me.
He knows my way of thinking, cause my inner man he wove.
See, I can't explain, I can't deny and yet somehow I know,
He bears my soul.

I call but there's no answer and my straining voice grows weak.
I'm sick of the hypocrisy of those who claim belief.
This sparrow seems forgotten,
And my match is burning low,
In doubt and dissolution even there He bears my soul.

My Lord shall never cease to stand with blood to intercede,
His Spirit groans in patient love and ceaseless prays for me.
He knows my way of thinking, cause my inner man he wove.
See, I can't explain, I can't deny and yet somehow I know,
He bears my soul.

I stumble through the woods just like a fugitive, I roam.
I distrust all directions of what's right except my own.
I've given up at godliness,
I break each contrite oath,
I kick and stray and fall again and there He bears my soul.

My Lord shall never cease to stand with blood to intercede,
His Spirit groans in patient love and ceaseless prays for me.
He knows my way of thinking, cause my inner man he wove.
See, I can't explain, I can't deny and yet somehow I know,
He bears my soul.

Nathan Partain, 2014

Song of Dependence

"I Need Thee Every Hour"

Leader

I need Thee ev'ry hour, most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine, can peace afford.

I need Thee, O, I need Thee;
Ev'ry hour I need Thee;
Oh, bless me now, my Savior,
I come to Thee.

I need Thee ev'ry hour, stay Thou nearby;
Temptations lose their pow'r, when Thou art nigh.

I need Thee, O, I need Thee;
Ev'ry hour I need Thee;
Oh, bless me now, my Savior,
I come to Thee.

I need Thee ev'ry hour, in joy or pain;
Come quickly and abide, or life is vain.

I need Thee, O, I need Thee;
Ev'ry hour I need Thee;
Oh, bless me now, my Savior,
I come to Thee.

I need Thee ev'ry hour, teach me Thy will;
And Thy rich promises, in me fulfill.

I need Thee, O, I need Thee;
Ev'ry hour I need Thee;
Oh, bless me now, my Savior,
I come to Thee.

words: Annie S. Hawks, 1872; music: Robert Lowry, 1872

Lent—Easter Calendar

February 22 @ 6 pm Joint Ash Wednesday Service | Lent Begins

April 2 @ 8:30 & 11 am Palm Sunday

April 3-6 @ 6 pm Holy Week Prayer Nights

April 7 @ 6 pm Joint Good Friday Service

April 9 @ 8, 9:30 & 11 am Easter Celebration



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