



# ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

## FEBRUARY 17, 2021

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### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### **Prelude**

"There Is a Balm in Gilead"

arr. Jay Rouse

#### **Call to Worship**

One: God is our refuge and strength, a present help in times of trouble;  
Therefore, we will not fear.

**All: Though the earth should change,  
Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,**

One: Though the waters roar and foam,

**All: Though the mountains tremble with its tumult,**

One: God's love endures forever.

**All: God's love endures forever.**

#### **Hymn**

"Just as I Am, without One Plea" (verses 1, 3 and 4)

*Just as I am, without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou biddest me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!*

*Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve; because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!*

*Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken every barrier down; now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!*

Just as I Am, without One Plea

Text: Charlotte Elliott (1834)

Music: William Batchelder Bradbury (1849)

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**Scripture Readings** Psalm 51:1-17

#### **Reflection**

"Memento Mori"

#### **Solo**

"Give Me Jesus"  
*Michaela Larsen, soprano*

arr. Howard Helvey

### The Service of Penitence

#### **Confession**

Rev. Penny Swartz

#### **Litany of Confession**

One: Rend your hearts and not your garments; return to your God.

**All: For God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

One: I know well my misdeeds, and my sin is ever before me.

**All: Wash away my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.**

One: Let us ask God to break forth light into the dark places of our hearts and confront us with hidden and secret sins, all that we try to hide.

**All: O Lord, open our hearts.**

continued...

One: Our preoccupation with ourselves,

**All: O Lord, open our hearts.**

One: Our lustful imaginations, our secret ambitions,

**All: O Lord, open our hearts.**

One: The buried grudge, the half-acknowledged hatred,

**All: O Lord, open our hearts.**

One: The bitterness of some past loss not yet offered up to you,

**All: O Lord, open our hearts.**

One: The private comforts to which we cling,

**All: O Lord, open our hearts.**

One: The fear of failure which saps our initiative,

**All: O Lord, open our hearts.**

One: The pessimism that is an insult to your will and power,

**All: Forgiving God, open our hearts here and now. Holy One, we bring our sins to you, we lie open to your sight. Let your piercing light be also our healing, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who both taught us and brought us your forgiveness. Amen.**

## ***Blessing of Ashes***

***Imposition of Ashes*** "I remember that I am dust; and to dust I shall return."

## ***Prayer of Restoration***

One: The grace of God is abundantly present to change our lives.

**All: God lifts us above our transgressions and cleanses us from our sin.**

One: In Christ, we are restored to the wholeness God intends for us.

**All: With contrite hearts and receptive spirits, we welcome the deliverance God offers.**

One: As a father has compassion on his children, God has compassion on us.

**All: As a mother treasures her children, God also treasures us.**

One: Let us praise the Lord with all we have, for God is good!

**All: God's mercy endures forever! Amen!**

## ***Hymn***

"O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer" (verses 1-3 and 6)

*O my soul, bless your Redeemer; all within me bless God's name; bless the Savior, and forget not all God's mercies to proclaim.*

*God forgives all your transgressions, all diseases gently heals; God redeems you from destruction, and with you so kindly deals.*

*Far as east from west is distant, God has put away our sin; like the pity of a father has the Lord's compassion been.*

*Bless your Maker, all your creatures, ever under God's control, all throughout God's vast dominion; bless the Lord of all, my soul!*

O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer

Text: The Book of Psalms (1871)

Music: Witt's Psalmody Sacra (1715); harm. William Henry Havergal (1847)

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## ***Benediction***

## ***Postlude***

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

arr. Craig Courtney