



Ash Wednesday Service

Calvin Christian Reformed Church

February 14, 2024

7:00 PM

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. Lent is the forty-day period (excluding Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to Easter (this year, February 14 – March 31), during which we recall the suffering and passion of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The aim of Ash Wednesday worship is threefold: to meditate on our mortality, sinfulness, and need of a savior; to renew our commitment to daily repentance; and to remember with confidence and gratitude Christ's conquering of death and sin. Ash Wednesday worship, then, is filled with gospel truth. It is a witness to the power and beauty of our union with Christ and to the daily dying and rising with Christ that this entails.

The imposition of ashes has a long history in biblical and church traditions. In Scripture ashes or dust symbolize frailty or death (Genesis 18:27), sadness or mourning (Esther 4:3), judgment (Lamentations 3:16), and repentance (Jonah 3:6). Some traditions also have considered ash a purifying or cleansing agent. All these images are caught up in the church's use of ashes as a symbol appropriate for Lent.

Prelude: "Eclogue in G"

Carson Cooman

"If You But Trust in God to Guide You" [#407]

Georg Boehm, Johann Walther

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Call to Worship: "This Is How We Know"

Frank Hernandez

arr. Norma de Waal Malefyt

This is how we know, what love is:

Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.

* God's Greeting

* Opening Hymn: "To My Precious Lord"

#136:1-3

Prayer of Invocation

We have gathered here, loving God,
to mark the season of Lent,
to begin that journey to the cross.

We have gathered here to repent of our sins
publicly and privately.

We have gathered here to be in the presence of one another,
where we can draw strength,
knowing that wherever two or three of us are gathered,
you are present among us.

Guide us throughout these forty days
as we journey deeper into your embrace,
and as we journey to the cross,
let us put to death those things
that separate us from each other and from you.

May we know your presence is always with us and
the power of your transformative love is within us.
May we recognize that your grace surrounds us
and is beyond us.

In the name of Jesus,
our companion on this journey of faith, we pray. Amen.

* Hymn of Preparation: "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

#140:1-3

Anthem: "Come One, Come All, Come Follow" Phillip R. Dietterich
(Trio: Lydia Meyer, Tyler Netz, Claire Veldkamp)
Come one, come all, come follow the call
of Jesus Christ, the Lord of all.

He'll teach you to walk, he'll teach you to talk,
to share in his love every day.

He'll teach you to work, he'll teach you to play,
to share in his love every day.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Psalm 51

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Reader: This is the Word of the Lord,

All: Thanks be to God!

Meditation: **HONEST TO GOD**

Prayer of Application

Call to Confession and Litany of Penitence

Leader: The season of Lent calls us again to follow Jesus in humility and trust. I invite you, therefore, to the observance of a Holy Lent, by taking time to say you are sorry to God for things you have done that are wrong, by spending time in prayer and reading the Bible. We will begin Lent by repenting and telling God we are sorry. We will also receive a sign of ashes to remind us that we will all die one day and that our lives are a gift from God.

Let us now confess our sin before the Lord.

All: Most holy and merciful Father, we confess to you and to one another that we have sinned against you—in what we have thought, in what we have said, and in what we have done. And it is our own fault.

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved those near to us.

We have not forgiven others, as you have forgiven us;
we hold grudges against other people .

Forgive us, merciful God.

We have not served other people the way Jesus served us.

We ignore those in need, those around the world who are hungry,
and those who suffer.

Forgive us, merciful God.

We are angry when we don't get our way.

We are not happy with what we have,
and we want what other people have. We are greedy.

Forgive us, merciful God.

We don't pray as we should; we are lazy.

Worshiping you is not as important to us as other things are;
we have not told other people about you.

Forgive us, merciful God.

Restore us, good Lord, and do not be angry with us.

Forgive us, merciful God.

Accomplish in us your good works,

that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Forgive us, merciful God.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit, give us

contrite hearts. May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree, heal us by his wounds. May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth, speak words of pardon and peace.

Anthem: “Create in Me”

Text and Music: Mary Rice Hopkins

Create in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve you.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, that I might be renewed.
So fill me and heal me, and bring me back to you.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve you.

Imposition of Ashes and the Giving of Gifts

Leader: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.

Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Consider yourself dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Offerings for our Benevolence Fund may be
placed in the plates in the front of the Sanctuary.

Prayer

* Benediction

* Doxology: “Worthy is Christ”

#605:1-2

**Worthy is Christ, worthy is Christ;
To him be praise and glory: worthy is the Lord.
He gave his life, he died for me;
To him be praise and glory: worthy is the Lord.
Amen.**

Postlude: “Wondrous Love” [#164]

George Lachenauer

Liturgists: Pastoral Intern Evie Dykhouse and Rev. Brad Zwiers

Preaching Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys

Organist: Dorothy Frisch

Ministry of Music: Covenant Choir

Choir Director: Amy Netz and Maria VandenBosch

Accompanist: Gwen Hendrikse



Growing in DiscipleshipTransformed for Ministry

Welcome to Calvin Church

In Worship:

- Our worship proceeds unannounced and follows the printed liturgy.
- Reprint and streaming licenses are One License A-730126 and CCLI#2532147.
- The Prayer of Invocation is from rev-o-lution.org.
- The Litany of Penitence is adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*.
- The black dominating our Lenten banner symbolizes the death of our Lord, the red expresses Christ's suffering, and the branch is a symbol of his crown of thorns. These symbols are not meant to be concerned only with death and suffering. The thorny branch is white and flowering to indicate that from suffering triumph will come, and the red orb symbolizes Christ's victory. Just as the sun illumines, quickens, and comforts, so Christ as the "Sun of Righteousness" gives new life to his own.
- Large-print resources are available at the Information Desk.
- Our facility is equipped with the Loop hearing system.



For Children:

- Preschool: The Little Children (TLC) gathers downstairs in Room 19 prior to the morning worship.
- Busy Bags for young children are on the picket fence in the Atrium.
- Bulletins for older children are in the rack in the Narthex.

Fellowship and Information:

- Everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall for refreshments following the morning service.
- "Like" us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CalvinChristianReformedChurch

Church office hours: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM, Monday—Thursday

Bulletin deadline: Wednesday Noon

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