

Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

*Chatham Heights Baptist Church, First Baptist Church, Starling Avenue Baptist Church
Martinsville, Virginia*

Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter: We confront our own mortality & confess our sin before God within the community of faith.

The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship, and the Imposition of Ashes can be a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation.

If you received a packet of ashes: you may mix the ashes with a little bit of olive oil.
Do NOT mix ashes with water.

If you did not receive a packet of ashes: Write a particular sin or hurtful or unjust characteristic on a small piece of paper. The paper may then be burned instead of the palm branches traditionally used for the ashes. You may also choose to simply use olive oil to trace a cross on your forehead or hand.

Prelude

A Lenten Meditation
Corelli

Baxter Jennings
First Baptist Church

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Mike Hatfield
Chatham Heights Baptist Church

Call to Worship: Joel 2:12-14

Rev. Dr. Libby Grammer
First Baptist Church

Behold, now is the acceptable time. Today is the day of God's salvation.

We tremble in fear and anticipation at the nearness of a God so great and powerful.

Return with all your heart, with weeping, fasting, and mourning.

God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Be reconciled to God, through Christ Jesus, and receive a new and right spirit within.

We will fast and pray as an inner discipline, preparing ourselves for faithful discipleship.

Invocation & Lord's Prayer

Revs. Brian & Ashley Gill Harrington
Starling Avenue Baptist Church

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Hymn

Lord, Throughout These Forty Days

Led by Tony Sanders
Starling Avenue Baptist Church

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
Teach us to overcome our sins, and close by You to stay.

As You with Satan did contend and did the vict'ry win,
O give us strength in You to fight, in You to conquer sin.

As You did hunger and did thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and only live by Your most holy word.

And through these days of penitence, and through Your Passion-tide,
For evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us that, when this life of suffering is past,
An Easter of unending joy we may attain at last!

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Mike Hatfield

'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.

Meditation

Libby Grammer

Hymn

What Wondrous Love Is This

Led by Becky Collins

First Baptist Church

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul?
What wondrous love is this, O my soul?
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?
When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.
To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I am,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.
And when from death I'm free I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on.

Prayer of Confession

Psalm 51

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 judgement. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new light 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. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt

offering, you would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God you will not despise. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The psalmist tells us that the sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit. Together, we have confessed the broken things within us and God's mercy has restored our souls. God hears the earnest cries of the repentant and forgives our sins. Amen.

Thanksgiving Over the Ashes

Brian Harrington

Imposition of Ashes

Dip a thumb in the ashes and make a cross on the forehead or hand of each person. As the sign of the cross is made, say: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Prayer of Response

Ashley Gill Harrington

Hymn

Lord, Have Mercy

Led by Chatham Heights
Praise Band

Lord, Have Mercy * by: Steve Merkel

5 Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy on me;

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy on — me.

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Benediction

Postlude

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
Gordon Young

Tony Sanders