

Leading Worship:

Lindsey Odom, Director of Youth Ministry
Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor
Zach Bowyer, Director of Music and Organist
Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation
Chancel Choir
Diane Carrouth, cello
Ushers: Tom Klecker and Donna Podgorny

Ash Wednesday Worship

February 22, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

Prelude *What Wondrous Love Is This* arr. Raymond Haan
Diane Carrouth, cello

Welcome Lindsey Odom

Introit *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* Frederick William Faber

***Call to Worship** Lindsey Odom

One: We are invited

Many: into this place, into this hour of worship, and on this Lenten journey.

One: We gather on this Ash Wednesday

Many: to be reminded of our desperate need for God's love, mercy, and grace.

One: With ashes we are marked to remind us of our mortality. With dust we are sealed into the ground from which we were created.

Many: But from that same ground comes new life because...

One: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love!

Many: With all our hearts, we return to the Lord.

One: We are reconciled to God, through Christ Jesus, and receive abundant life.

All: So, come, let us begin this Lenten journey to which Christ calls us. Amen.

***Hymn** *Jesus Knows the Inmost Heart* No. 427

Prayer for Illumination Lindsey Odom

Scripture Reading Psalm 51:1-17

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 judgment. 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 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,



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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.

Meditation Our Story: from Ashes to Abundance Lindsey Odom

Anthem *Create in Me* Michael Burkhardt

Chancel Choir; David Kinsey, baritone; Blythe Kinsey, piano

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

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free spirit.

***Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline Dr. Matthew S. Brown

Psalm of Penitence Psalm 51 Rebecca Guzman

One: In preparation, present yourselves before God. Come in your brokenness, admitting where you have fallen short of God's hopes and of your own.

One: Have mercy on me, God, according to your faithful love!

Many: The brokenness that hinders me, I lay before you.

(Time of silent reflection)

One: Please don't throw me out of your presence; please don't take your holy spirit away from me.

Many: All the pain I have in my life—the pain I have caused and the pain I feel—I lay before you.

One: Come in your weakness, admitting your lack of confidence to do what is right.

(Time of silent reflection)

One: Have mercy on me, God, according to your faithful love!

Many: The weakness that traps me, I lay before you.

One: Come in your fear, admitting your failure to seek justice.

(Time of silent reflection)

One: Please don't throw me out of your presence; I admit that I have avoided your call.

(Time of silent reflection)

One: Have mercy on me, God, according to your faithful love!

Many: My unwillingness in doing what you want, I lay before you.

One: Come in your failings, admitting what you have done and left undone.

(Time of silent reflection)

One: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Many: Put a new, faithful spirit deep within me. The emptiness that saps my strength and leaves me lifeless, I lay before you.

One: All that we are, all that we have done, all that we confess, we lay before you, O God.

All: Relieve the weight of the burden I lay before you. Amen.

Response *We Are Forgiven* No. 447

Invitation to the Table Dr. Brown

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer Lindsey Odom

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise . . .

"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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever." Amen.

The Words of Institution Dr. Brown

The Imposition of Ashes and the Receiving of the Elements

The ushers will direct you to the center aisle. For those who would desire it, you may pause at one of the center stations to receive the imposition of ashes, a sign of the cross placed on your forehead or hand, before proceeding to one of the side stations to receive the elements of communion. Please partake of the elements at your seat.

The Prayer after Communion Dr. Brown

***Hymn** *Be Thou My Vision* No. 450

Benediction Lindsey Odom

Chiming of the Trinity

Please leave in a spirit of quiet contemplation.