

Ash Wednesday



**A joint service between
Bytown Community Church &
St Giles Presbyterian Church**

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

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabeg People. The Algonquin peoples have lived on this land since time immemorial. We are grateful to have the opportunity to be present in this territory.

We thank Aditi Magdalena for being our vocalist this evening while Katie Gratton, our regular vocalist is on a holiday.

Prelude *Reflection* by Catharine Doige

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

- 1. Come, let us to the Lord our God
with contrite hearts return;
our God is gracious, nor will leave
the desolate to mourn.**
- 2. God's voice commands the tempest forth
and stills the stormy wave;
God's arm is strong and swift to strike,
but also strong to save.**
- 3. The night of sorrow long has reigned,
but dawn shall bring us light;
God shall appear, and we shall rise
with gladness in God's sight.**
- 4. Then let us know, let us press on
to know our God the Lord,
whose coming is as sure as dawn,
whose name shall be adored.**
- 5. As dew upon the tender grass
diffusing fragrance round,
as rain that ushers in the spring
and cheers the thirsty ground,**
- 6. so shall God's presence bless our souls
and shed a joyful light,
that hallowed morn shall chase away
the sorrows of the night.**

Prayer of Adoration

Holy One, Creator, Redeemer and Guide of our lives. From you comes peace, and we trust in your goodness and grace. In you we find wisdom, and claim hope in your presence with us. By you we are redeemed, and we learn to love. You are our beginning and our end, the first and the last, the forgiver and redeemer of all things. We worship you now, Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Ever Three and ever One, now and always.

The Lord's Prayer

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, for ever and ever. Amen

Scripture

First Reading Isaiah 58:1–12

Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.[a]

“Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.

You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The Lord will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Responsive Psalm 51:1–17 (*with refrain 1*)

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.

Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not 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.**

Second Reading Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

“Beware of practicing your righteousness 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 somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces 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.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

- 1. Take time to be holy; speak oft with thy Lord.
Abide in him always, and feed on his word.
Make friends of God's children; help those who are weak,
forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.**
- 2. Take time to be holy; the world rushes on;
spend much time in secret with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus, like him thou shalt be;
thy friends in thy conduct his likeness shall see.**
- 3. Take time to be holy; let him by thy guide,
and run not before him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow thy Lord,
and, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.**
- 4. Take time to be holy; be calm in thy soul,
each thought and each motive
beneath his control.
Thus led by his Spirit to fountains of love,
thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.**

Meditation

Prayer of Confession

God of Life and Love, you hate nothing that you have created. You forgive the sins of all who turn to you in confession, and so we pray together:

Forgive the words we failed to speak and those we should not have spoken. Forgive the good we

failed to do and the evil we have done. Forgive the love we have withheld and the grudges we have cherished. Forgive what we have been, amend who we are, and direct who you would have us be through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear and believe the Good News: anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life is gone, the new life has come. Know that you are forgiven and so, in Christ, forgive one another.

Imposition of Ashes

Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Hymn **Lord, whose love through humble service 722**

- 1. Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need, who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy's perfect deed: we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart, consecrating to your purpose every gift that you impart.**

- 2. Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, your deep compassion
healed the sick and freed the soul,
use the love your Spirit kindles
still to save and make us whole.**

- 3. As we worship, grant us vision,
till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness
dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to tireless striving
your abundant life to share.**

- 4. Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom
may your mercy know and live.**

Benediction

Postlude *Prelude on Evan* by John Radley