

Cahaba Springs

February 22, 2023

Ash Wednesday

Prelude

A Lenten Psalm

Wihla Hutson

Call to Worship

*Call to Worship

One: We gather together at the edge of a new season.

Many: We stand together on the cusp of something new.

One: Will we wade into self-reflection?

Many: Will we invite honesty to dance?

One: Will we listen for God's invitation?

Many: Will we seek deeper faith?

One: What kind of fast do we choose? What kind of faith will we build?

Many: We gather together at the edge of a new season.

One: Listen, God is speaking.

* Hymn 215

What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE

verses 1 and 2

Prayer of Invocation Unison

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of tenderness, and strengthen us to face our mortality, that we may reach with confidence for your mercy: in Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

First Reading

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Second Reading

Isaiah 58:1-12

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession *Unison*

One: Merciful God, how many times in a day could we choose love?

Many: How many times could we choose justice?

One: How many times could we speak kindly to ourselves?

Many: How many times could we offer grace?

One: How many times, God? And how often do we miss it?

Many: Forgive us for choosing the path you did not travel.

One: Forgive us for hitching our horse to the world's measure of goodness, instead of yours.

Many: Return our hearts to you, and guide us continually, even in the parched places.

One: With gratitude we pray,

Many: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Imposition of Ashes: *All are invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes.*

Prayer following the Imposition of Ashes

One: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

Many: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

One: By the cross and passion of our Savior,

Many: bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection. Amen

Affirmation of Faith**Inspired by the words of Isaiah 58**

We believe in a God who chooses freedom, who unties every rope
and carries our burdens.

We believe in a God who ushers in the poor and the hungry, who
has a seat saved for all of us.

We believe in a God whose love is like the sun, who says, "I'm here,
I'm here!" every time we cry.

We believe in a God who walks before us in the parched places,
who rescues our bones, who tends to us like a gardener.

And because we believe, we strive to choose love.

Because we believe, we strive to pursue justice.

Because we believe. . . Amen.

Sending of the People***Closing Hymn 649**

*Amazing Grace,
How Sweet the Sound*
versus 1, 2, and 3

AMAZING GRACE

Benediction**Postlude**

Pavane

William Byrd

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