



Ash Wednesday

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**

Congregational 1633-1636
United Church of Christ
Garden and Mason Streets
Cambridge, Massachusetts

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC
Ash Wednesday
February 10, 2016

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

GREETING AND INTRODUCTION

*HYMN (insert) *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

READINGS AND RESPONSES

ASHES, A SIGN OF CREATION

READING Genesis 2:4b-9

SILENCE

RESPONSE From Psalm 8

L: O Lord, Our God,
how wonderful is your name in all the earth!

**All: When I look up at the heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you put in place—
I wonder, what are human beings
that you think about us? Mortals that you love us?
You have made us a little less than divine
and crowned us with glory and honor.
O Lord, our God,
how wonderful is your name in all the earth!**

ASHES, A SIGN OF MORTALITY

READING Genesis 3:8-13; 17-19

SILENCE

*RESPONSE (insert) *Jesus, I Live to Thee*

**You are invited to stand.*

ASHES, A SIGN OF REPENTANCE

READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

SILENCE

RESPONSE From Psalm 130

L: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Beloved.

All: Holy One, hear my voice!

Pay attention to my cry!

If you should hold our faults against us,

God, who could survive?

But you pardon and heal,

and for this we revere you.

I wait for the Holy One,

my soul waits for God,

more than the sentinel who watches for the morning,

more than those who watch for the dawn.

Hope in the Holy One forever,

for with God is steadfast love

and power to save.

ASHES IN THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

READING

Matthew 16:21-26a

SILENCE

*RESPONSE (insert)

What Wondrous Love Is This?

THE RITUAL OF ASHES

BLESSING OF THE ASHES

THE SIGN OF ASHES

If you wish to receive ashes, please come forward now. As ashes are placed on your forehead, you will be addressed with the following exhortation:

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

PRAYER

CONCERNS AND INTENTIONS FOR LENT

This is a time for prayerful reflection, either silently or aloud. If you wish, you are invited to come forward and light a candle and name a prayer concern or a personal intention for the season of Lent.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Please pray this prayer and address God in words most meaningful to your heart.)

**All: 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 (insert)

By Gracious Powers

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

*BLESSING (based on Isaiah 61: 1-4, 10-11)

L: The Spirit of the Holy One is upon you,
because God has anointed you;
and is sending you
to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim a season of God's favor,
to comfort all who mourn—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
gladness instead of sorrow,
a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
And you will be called oaks of righteousness,
the plantings of the Holy One to display God's glory.
You shall build up the ancient devastation,
repair the ruined cities,
and heal the despair of many generations.

**All: And I shall greatly rejoice in the Holy One;
for God has clothed me in garments of salvation,**

**and covered me with a robe of righteousness!
As the earth brings forth its shoots,
so God will cause justice and praise
to spring up before all nations!**

***PEACE AND FAREWELL**

L: Go in peace to love and serve our Maker!

All: **Thanks be to God!**

L: Now share with each other a sign of Christ's peace!

Leading the service tonight are Karin Case, Minister; Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach; and Katie Omberg, Ministerial Intern.

LENTEN PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

(for detailed information, please see the Lent/Easter issue of EVENT)

Christian Formation

For Such a Time as This: Reflections on the Book of Esther

Sundays, February 14, 21, 28, and March 6 and 13, 10:00 a.m., Hastings Room

Lenten Meditation Practice

Mondays, February 22 through March 14, 6:00-7:15 p.m., in The Well (Room 22)

Family Night Lenten Series

Tuesdays, February 23 through March 15, 5:30 - 7 p.m., Sage Hall

“Not in God’s Name” Parsonage Book Study

Wednesdays, March 2, 9 and 16, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m., at the Parsonage

Fellowship

Palm Sunday Breakfast

Sunday, March 20, 10 a.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

SPECIAL SERVICES

Palm Sunday,

March 20, 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship. The last Sunday of Lent.

(Service begins on the front lawn at 10:55 with procession into the Sanctuary.)

We remember Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem. We greet him with a "parade" of young and old, waving palms and singing traditional songs, as we enter the Sanctuary to begin the Morning Worship service. Come join us on the road to Jerusalem! **Note: Our Annual All Church Palm Sunday Breakfast will be served in Margaret Jewett Hall at 10 am, before the procession.**

Maundy Thursday

March 24, 7:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary

We recall the new commandment Jesus gave his disciples, to love one another as he loved us. We remember his last meal with his friends by celebrating Holy Communion. And in a candle-lit, then darkened, sanctuary we call to mind Jesus' anguish and arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. The service will be led in part by members of our youth group. A ritual of foot washing will be offered for anyone who wishes to participate.

Good Friday

March 25, 7:30 p.m., Lindsay Chapel

We lament the world's pain and injustice, and we honor the death of Jesus on the cross of shame.

Easter Sunday

April 5, 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship in the Sanctuary

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! We celebrate and rejoice in God's gift of new life through the Resurrection of Jesus. With joy-filled worship and special music we lift up the good news that not even death can separate us from the love of God in Christ.

The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

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