

# St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church



## The Ash Wednesday Liturgy February 17, 2021

Streaming on Facebook Live at 8 P.M.

### Opening Acclamation

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
*People* **God's mercy endures forever.**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

### The Collect *said by all*

Mystery of Goodness, by whose gaze we are called into being and held in life: teach us the secrecy of prayer which seeks no reward; the generosity of love which forgets itself; the gift of a treasure uncountable and unconsumed; through Jesus Christ, the Son of the Wilderness. Amen.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate 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 wretchedness, 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.**

## The First Lesson

Joel 2:1-2,12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, “Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

*Lector*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

Psalm 103:8-14

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

The Lord will not always accuse us,  
nor nourish anger for ever.

The Lord has not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so is the Lord’s mercy great toward those who are faithful.

As far as the east is from the west,  
so far the Lord removes our sins from us.

As a father cares for his children,  
so does the Lord care for the faithful.

For the Lord knows whereof we are made,  
and remembers that we are but dust.

## The Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

*Lector*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "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."

*Priest* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## The Sermon

The Rev. Patricia Templeton

### Invitation to the Observance of a Holy Lent

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins had been separated from the body of the faithful, were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*Silence is then kept for a time.*

### Prayer over the Ashes

*The Celebrant says the following prayer.*

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

### Imposition of Ashes

*The ashes are imposed with the following words.*

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

## **Psalm 51**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness  
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight.

And so you are justified when you speak  
and upright in your judgment.

Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

For behold, you look for truth deep within me,  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

Make me hear of joy and gladness,  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquities.

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

## **Litany of Penitence**

*The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling*

Most holy and merciful Father: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

*The Celebrant continues*

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

***Have mercy on us, Lord.***

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

***Have mercy on us, Lord.***

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,  
***We confess to you, Lord.***

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,  
***We confess to you, Lord.***

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,  
***We confess to you, Lord.***

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,  
***We confess to you, Lord.***

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,  
***We confess to you, Lord.***

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,  
***Accept our repentance, Lord.***

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,  
***Accept our repentance, Lord.***

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,  
***Accept our repentance, Lord.***

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;  
***Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.***

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,  
***That we may show forth your glory in the world.***

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,  
***Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.***

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **The Peace**

*Celebrant*      The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*            ***And also with you.***

### **Announcements**

## The Holy Communion

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.  
*People*            ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant*      Lift up your hearts.  
*People*            ***We lift them to the Lord.***

*Celebrant*      Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People*            ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

It is right and a good and joyful thing to give thanks to you always, Creator God, because you have made the world in all its complexity. You have given humanity abundant good things. You have provided us with paths leading to wisdom through deprivation and suffering. And you have shown us, through the incarnation of your love in Jesus Christ, the way of reconciliation through letting go of self and material concerns, seeking first the compassionate realm of God.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Celebrant continues*

Ever Living God, you have created the world out of nothingness. You are present in both the darkness and the light.

You have created humanity from the dust of the earth, and have given us the ability to choose between good and evil. You have called your prophets and champions from among the lowly. You have formed your people through wanderings in the desert and through exile in foreign lands. In your creative thirst to be known to us, you have entered into our struggles, coming among us in the human person of Jesus the Christ. He was conceived amid scandal, born in want, raised in obscurity. With us he embraces hunger and thirst, temptation, rejection, doubt, grief, suffering, and death.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take, eat: This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

***Christ has died.***

***Christ is risen.***

***Christ will come again.***

*The Celebrant continues*

Now in this sacred rite of thanksgiving and praise we celebrate the saving work of Jesus. For in him the cross, the instrument of torture and death, has been transformed into the sign of reconciliation and abundant life. Recalling his life and teaching, his death and resurrection, we offer these gifts of bread and wine. Spirit of Compassion, breathe upon them now, making them for us the very body and blood of your incarnate love, the Christ. And breathe your Spirit into us so that, having partaken of this sacramental meal in faith, we may serve you in unity, constancy and peace, and may dwell forever in the joy of communion with you.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ, the human and cosmic incarnation of your Love. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of your Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, now and forever.

***Amen.***

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

And we pray for those who are not receiving communion today:

Faithful God,  
in the wonder of your wisdom and love  
you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels,  
and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life.  
Though we are not consuming these gifts of bread and wine,  
we thank you that we have received the sacrament  
of Christ's presence,  
the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit,  
may we embody your desire  
and be renewed for your service,  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

**The Breaking of the Bread:**

*Celebrant* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* ***Therefore let us keep the feast.***

*Celebrant* The gifts of God for the people of God.

Let us Pray.

**Prayer after Communion** *Celebrant and People*

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen

**Lenten Blessing**

The blessing of God,  
who creates life out of death,  
be with you today.

The blessing of God,  
who suffers with the sin of this world and blesses all humankind with grace,  
be with you always.

The blessing of God,  
who sanctifies our lives,  
be with you as you reveal the power of God's love to save. ***Amen.***

**The Dismissal**

*Response* ***Thanks be to God.***

## Prayers

**Parishioners: Pam Weed, Bob Wolfson, and Susan Glenz-Pierce.**

**Family: Matt Stanhope**, nephew of Martha O'Brien; **Reid Turner**, brother of Sarah Hancock; **Allen Ekmark**, uncle of Heather Robertson; **Priscilla Williams**, sister of Bessie Holland; **Hilary Foster**, niece of Claudia Gimson; **Winnie Mark**, grandmother of Connor Mark; **Jackson Westphal**, nephew of Lori Westphal; **Jessica Longino Carrillo**, family of Bob Longino; **Jeannette Davis**, sister-in-law of Priscilla Davis; **Pete Webb**, brother of Hulan Webb; **Vincent Lafitte**; **Capt. Richard Murphy**, nephew of Christine & Jim Bird; **Mary Jane Hobbs**, sister of Sara Thomas; **Barbara Martello**, niece of Mimi Gold; **Maude Harris**, cousin of Gloria Nelson; **Beth Zimmerman**, mother of Justin Camara; **Deni Omundson & Gary Dorsey, Sydney Cortez & Family**, relatives of Jeanne & Josh Taylor; **Tammy Hauser**, sister-in-law of Steve and Susan Hauser; **Ben Jennings**, nephew of Nancy Knight Latimore; **Arvis Morris**, mother, and **Katy Greenawalt**, sister of Lee Morris; **Deborah Smith**, wife of Leon Smith.

**Friends: Virginia Titshaw**, (Bob Longino); **Phil & Sharon Joseph & family**, (Sandra Dobbs); **Brad Johnson** (Priscilla Davis); **Sarah Dugas**, (Lori Westphal); **Sara Jane Gower** (Lindsey Reece); **Kirby Husbands**, (Hulan Webb); **The Bradshaw Family, Janet Cobb** (Claudia Gimson); **Sherrel Howard**, (Mimi Gold); **The Younus Family**, (Nancy & Jonathan Edman); **Martha & Tom D'Angelo, Christina & Francesco Ianni, Louise Delk, Pat Buffington, Frances Cortez**, (Rhea Hannah); **Benjamin Banas**, (Cathy Leake); **Marilyn McCroskey**, (Alan Toney); **Judy**, (David Abner); **Elaine Furman**, (Deborah Reece); **Cathy & Guy Frazee, Marty Rubin**, (Sallie Smith); **Lenay Horten, Gregory Olvey, Myrtle Alexander**, (Gloria Nelson); **Gary & Karen Wright, Rose & Ava Faison, Michellene Tipton, Debbie Bogard, James Bogard**, (Jeanne and Josh Taylor).

We give thanks for our parish community, especially **Jill Knight; Sonya & Christopher Nieboer; Nancy Knight & Keith Latimore;** and **Cathy & Charlie Leake.** ☩

We pray for those who have died, remembering especially **Manuel Carrillo**, friend of Bob Longino; **Chaz McIntyre**, nephew of Martha O'Brien, and **Harry Kastanakis**, father of Renéé Kastanakis. ☩

I invite your prayers for health care workers on the front lines of battling the Coronavirus, especially **Deb Dee, John Lloyd, Lauren Gensler, Debbie Leake, Rhonda Leake, and Audra Smith.**

We invite you to use this prayer list for your personal prayers. St. Dunstan's Julian of Norwich chapter of The Daughters of the King prays daily for all on the prayer list.

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

From The Book of Common Prayer, page 134.