

A Service of Worship and Turning Back to God

Ash Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

February 14, 2018

Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on us. As we enter this season of reflection and repentance, cleanse us, heal us, lift us, and direct us only toward your will.

In moments of joy and in moments of sorrow, in moments of our abundance and in our moments of need, abide with us. Amen.

Welcome

Dr. John Bruce Hillin

Call to Worship

God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved by him.

God's love endures forever.

God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

God's love endures forever.

Prayer

Jimmy Chapman

Litany

Psalm 51:1-17

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.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy Spirit from me.

Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you.

Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, but you take no delight in burnt offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Hymn# 423

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

Call to Confession

On behalf of Christ, we plead with you: be reconciled to God. For our sake, God made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Christ we might become the righteousness of God. See, now is the acceptable time. See, now is the day of salvation! With faith and hope, let us confess our sin. Let us pray first silently, then together as we use the words in the bulletin.

Silent Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

A Decision for Lent

In your bulletins, there is a list of transgressions on one side that we may identify with, and on the other side, possible habits that we might begin during this Lenten Season. Please consider taking this with you and meditate on it as we reflect on God's great gift to us in Jesus Christ.

Prayer for Illumination

Dr. John Bruce Hillin

Scripture

Joel 2:1-2; 12-17

Hymn# 757

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

Scripture

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Message

Jimmy Chapman

Hymn# 738

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

Prayer of the Congregation

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

(for those who wish to receive)

Please Depart in Silence

(Lights will be dimmed)

