

The Anglican Church of St. Peter, Quamichan
Liturgy of the Word for ASH WEDNESDAY

People of God in this place and in all places, once again, we give thanks that you are worshipping with this community. We welcome you to the Anglican Church of St. Peter, Quamichan as part of our virtual church family. Once again, today, with many churches across this country and around the world we will share our service of the Liturgy of the Word for Ash Wednesday.

Opening Acknowledgment:

Officiant: We gather on the lands of the Coast Salish People.
We enjoy the hospitality of the Cowichan Tribes.
We live, work and worship on these traditional lands of the First Nations people.
We continue to commit ourselves to walking towards reconciliation of all of God's people.

Hymn: O God of Bethel, by Whose Hand

The Gathering and the Collect

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

All: And also, with you.

Officiant Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God,

All: 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.

Officiant: I invite you to settle your hearts and minds and be attentive as we listen to Holy Wisdom.

First Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17a

Psalm 103:8-18

8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, * **slow to anger and of great kindness.**

9 He will not always accuse us, * **nor will he keep his anger for ever.**

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, * **nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, * **so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.**

12 As far as the east is from the west, * **so far has he removed our sins from us.**

13 As a father cares for his children, * **so does the LORD care for those who fear him.**

14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; * **he remembers that we are but dust.**

15 Our days are like the grass; * **we flourish like a flower of the field;**

16 When the wind goes over it, it is gone, * **and its place shall know it no more.**
17 But the merciful goodness of the LORD endures for ever on those who fear him, * **and his righteousness on children's children;**
18 On those who keep his covenant * **and remember his commandments and do them.**

All: God of infinite mercy and forgiveness, by the cross and resurrection of Jesus your Son, wash away our sins and deliver us from our infirmities of body and spirit, that we may live with him his risen life, to the praise and glory of your holy name. Amen.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Homily - The Rev. MJ Leewis-Kirk

Music for reflection

Officiant: Dear friends in Christ, every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery. We begin this holy season by remembering our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Officiant: We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes, an ancient sign, speaking of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marking the penitence of the community as a whole.

I invite you therefore, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God.

Silence is then kept for reflection

Psalm 51:1-18

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness;
in your great compassion blot out my offences.
Wash me through and through from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.

All: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Leader: 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.

All: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Leader: And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgement.
Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb.

All: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Leader: 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.

All: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Leader: 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.

All: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Leader: 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.

All: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Leader: 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.

All: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Leader: 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.

All: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Leader: 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.

All: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Hymn: Giver of the Perfect Gift

Litany of Penitence

**All: Most holy and merciful Father,
we confess to you, 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.**

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

All: Have mercy on us, Lord.

Officiant: 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.

All: Have mercy on us, Lord.

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

All: We confess to you, Lord.

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

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

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

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

Officiant: 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,
All: Accept our repentance, Lord.

Officiant: For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts
toward our neighbours, and for our prejudice
and contempt toward those who differ from us,
All: Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Officiant: Restore us, good Lord,
and let your anger depart from us;
All: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

Prayer Over the Ashes

Officiant: Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you have created us.
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 eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Conclusion of the Confession

Officiant: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
All: That we may show forth your glory in the world.

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

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord
Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit
keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: Now Let Us All with One Accord

Dismissal:

Leader: Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.