



Duke
UNIVERSITY
CHAPEL

BRIDGING FAITH & LEARNING

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
Ash Wednesday
February 14, 2024, 8:00 a.m.



Annika Gordon, University of Portland, 2020

Ash Wednesday has its roots in the earliest days of Christianity. People who committed public sins would seek reconciliation by putting ashes on their head, wearing sackcloth, and publicly mourning their sinfulness for forty days. Over time, this practice broadened in acknowledgement that each of us sins, creating separation from the Body of Christ. While this is a season of penitence, it is not to be mired in despair and self-loathing. As Hildegard of Bingen wrote, “Don’t let yourself forget that God’s grace rewards not only those who never slip but also those who bend and fall. So sing! The song of rejoicing softens hard hearts. It makes tears of godly sorrow flow from them. Singing summons the Holy Spirit. Happy praises offered in simplicity and love lead the faithful to complete harmony, without discord. Don’t stop singing.”

Gathering

Prelude

Deux chorals pour orgue
Choral phrygien
Choral dorien

Jehan Alain
(1911–1940)

Greeting and Call to Worship

*Opening Hymn | UMH 479

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

ABERYSTWYTH

Proclamation

Prayer for Illumination | In unison:

Holy God, our lives are laid open before you: as we hear your word today, rescue us from the chaos of sin, and through the death of your Son bring us healing and make us whole in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson | OT page 798 in the pew Bibles

Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody | OT pages 492–493 in the pew Bibles. Chanted by the cantor.

Psalm 51

New Testament Lesson | OT pages 170–171 in the pew Bibles

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*All rise as able

*Gospel Lesson | NT pages 5–6 in the pew Bibles

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Homily

Invitation to the Observance of a Holy Lent

Prayer Over the Ashes

Imposition of Ashes | Those wishing to receive ashes will come forward to the stations. When all who desire have received the ashes, the service will continue with the Litany of Penitence.

Litany of Penitence | The congregation responds with the text in bold:

God the Father,
Have mercy on us.

God the Son,
Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,
Have mercy on us.

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity,
Have mercy on us.

From our pride, vanity, and hypocrisy, and from all our evil plans,
Deliver us.

From our envy and malice, and from our hardness of heart,
Deliver us.

From our sloth and worldliness, and our lack of compassion,
Deliver us.

From our love of money, our obsession with possessions,
and our relentless desire to accumulate more,
Deliver us.

From the lust and greed
that obscures the image of God in others and ourselves,
Deliver us.

From the hoarding of food, our neglect of the hungry,
and the misuse of creation,
Deliver us.

From our hatred, anger, and quick temper,
and from our reluctance to be reconciled with those we have hurt,
Deliver us.

Give us true repentance;
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and our deliberate sins;
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit
to amend our lives according to your holy word.

**Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

The minister speaks words of assurance.

*Peace | All exchange signs and words of God's peace.

Call to Prayer

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Let us pray.

Prayers of the People | The congregation responds to each petition:

People: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer | All are encouraged to pray the Lord's Prayer in the language of their choosing. The English text of the prayer can be found at UMH 895.

Sending Forth

***Benediction**

***Closing Hymn** | See hymn at back of worship guide.

Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church

OLD 124TH

Following today's worship service, you are invited to depart in silence or remain in the Chapel in prayer.

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister

Luke A. Powery *Dean, Duke University Chapel*

Preacher

Casey Stanton *Co-Director, Discerning Deacons; Divinity '16*

Lector

Angela Darrow Flynn *Coordinator for Worship and Ministry, Duke University Chapel*

Musicians

Chad Fothergill *Chapel Organist, Duke University Chapel*

Zebulon Highben *Director of Chapel Music, Duke University Chapel*

Worship Assistants

Juan José Hernández *Director, Duke Catholic Center*

Andrew LaBudde *Assistant Chaplain, Duke Catholic Center*

Bruce Puckett *Assistant Dean, Duke University Chapel*

Jackie Rodriguez *Campus Minister, Duke Presbyterian Campus Ministry*

Restrooms in Divinity School | Public restrooms are available in the Divinity School. To access them, exit the Chapel through the main front doors and enter the Divinity School. Restrooms are along the hallway in the Divinity School.

An Examination of Conscience through the Ten Commandments

Read Exodus 20:1-17

Having no other gods	How do I love God with all my heart, mind, soul, and strength? How do I fail to do this?
Making no idols	In what concrete ways have I put possessions, career, relationships, reputation, or health ahead of God? What gifts from God have I made into gods?
Revering God's name	How do my words and actions glorify God? How do they fail to glorify God?
Keeping the Sabbath	How do I let work take over my life? Do I find my identity in work or in being God's child? When do I practice trusting God through rest?
Honoring parents	Do my parents know I value and respect them? Do my children?
Respecting life	How do I respond when I am humiliated, insulted, or treated unfairly? Am I quick to forgive, or do I hold grudges and seek revenge? How do I let my anger get the better of me?
Respecting relationships	When do I treat friends or strangers as objects rather than people made in God's image? How have I respected the physical and sexual dignity of others and of myself? And how have I not? Do I treat sex as a precious and holy gift?
Respecting property	In what ways am I greedy? Do I have things that rightly belong to others? How have I been dishonest in relation to wealth and money? When have I been a generous giver and when have I failed?
Respecting truth	How do I exaggerate to impress? When am I prone to gossip? How have I failed to keep my promises? In what ways do I face the truth about myself? Do I share my true self with others?
Governing desires	Am I jealous? Am I thankful? Am I content with what God has given me? Do I curse the fact that life always seems easier for others?

A Lenten Prayer—For Personal Lenten Discipline

Lord Jesus, you fasted and prayed in the wilderness for forty days. Help me to fast and pray during this time of Lent. Free my mind from distraction and protect me from the snares of the devil, that I may learn to love you and my neighbors more. Give me a spirit of generosity, so that I might share my gifts more freely with those who have less. Teach me to pray, that I might offer you praise and thanksgiving. Help me make time to reflect on your Word; may it challenge, console, and purify me. Be with me in times of hurt, doubt, and confusion. Fill me with your Holy Spirit, free me from sin, let me rise with you this Easter. I ask this in the name of Jesus, who died that I might be forgiven and have life to the full. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN | Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church



1. E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church
2. So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
3. If dead in you so in you we a - rise,



walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;



led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,



moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
glo - rious in spring-time dress of leaf and flow'r,



far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
so we are dead and live with you in God.
so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931–2003

Music: *Trente quatre pseauxmes de David*, Geneva, 1551

OLD 124TH

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ACCESSIBILITY

Large-print worship guides are available at the visitor relations desk. Hearing assistance units are available at the AV console in the rear of the Chapel. Please let us know if you need other accommodations by approaching a minister or usher, or email us at dukechapel@duke.edu.

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

We would like to get to know you. What are your questions? What is your story? Take a moment to fill out a brief form, and a Chapel minister or other staff member will contact you soon. Scan the QR code or visit chapel.duke.edu/connect.



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