

Ash Wednesday

Unbroken

A living faith

March 5, 2025

Ash Wednesday
“Unbroken: A Living Faith”
Wednesday, March 5, 2025
(indicates the assembly stands)*

Gathering

*Hymn 921 (see page 4) *“Return to God”*

*Greeting

*Prayer of the Day

Solo *“Bist du bei mir”* G. Stölzel

Word

First Reading Joel 2:12-17

Psalm 51:1-17 (see page 5) *(sung responsively by full verse)*

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

*Gospel Acclamation p. 125

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

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day 920 (see page 7) *“All Things of Dust to Dust Return”*

Invitation to Lent

Confession of Sin p. 252

Imposition of Ashes p. 254

*Prayers of Intercession **A: receive our prayer.**

*Peace

Meal

*Offering Hymn 186 *“Create in Me a Clean Heart”*

*Great Thanksgiving	p. 129
*Thanksgiving at the Table	
*Lord's Prayer (<i>Our Father in heaven...</i>)	p. 134
Hymn during Communion 319	<i>"O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days"</i>
*Concluding Prayer	
Sending	
General Announcements	
*Blessing	
*Hymn 326	<i>"Bless Now, O God, the Journey"</i>
*Dismissal	A: Thanks be to God.

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On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

Return to God

Leader

- 1 In all af - flic - tion
- 2 With great en - dur - ance
- 3 In ev - 'ry hard - ship
- 4 With hum - ble spir - it
- 5 By speech that's truth - ful
- 6 To cease op - pres - sion
- 7 By lov - ing jus - tice
- 8 With gen - tle kind - ness

Assembly

- 1 In all af - flic - tion
- 2 With great en - dur - ance
- 3 In ev - 'ry hard - ship
- 4 With hum - ble spir - it
- 5 By speech that's truth - ful
- 6 To cease op - pres - sion
- 7 By lov - ing jus - tice
- 8 With gen - tle kind - ness

All

re - turn, re - turn to God.

Text: Marilyn Haskel, b. 1945

Music: RETURN TO GOD, Marilyn Haskel

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Church Fire Plan For everyone's awareness, a copy of the Church Fire Plan for safe exit from the Sanctuary appears in the back of the worship books. Please take a moment to review for your own safety.

Psalm 51:1-17

Tone 9



¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your ¹ steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out ¹ my offenses.

²Wash me through and through ¹ from my wickedness,
and cleanse me ¹ from my sin.

³For I know ¹ my offenses,
and my sin is ev- ¹ er before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil ¹ in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right ¹ in your judgment.

⁵Indeed, I was born ¹ steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my ¹ mother's womb.

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth ¹ deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom ¹ deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I ¹ shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- ¹ er than snow.

⁸Let me hear ¹ joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken ¹ may rejoice.

⁹Hide your face ¹ from my sins,
and blot out ¹ all my wickedness.

¹⁰Create in me a clean ¹ heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- ¹ it within me.

¹¹Cast me not away ¹ from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- ¹ it from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of ¹ your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- ¹ tiful Spirit.

¹³Let me teach your ways¹ to offenders,
and sinners shall be re-¹stored to you.

¹⁴Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of¹ my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing¹ of your righteousness.

¹⁵O Lord, o-¹pen my lips,
and my mouth shall pro-¹claim your praise.

¹⁶For you take no delight in sacrifice, or¹ I would give it.
You are not pleased¹ with burnt offering.

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a¹ troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will¹ not despise.

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Pastor Carey Meadows-Helmer

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Communion Server: Linda McLellan

Lector: Gwenanne Jorgenson

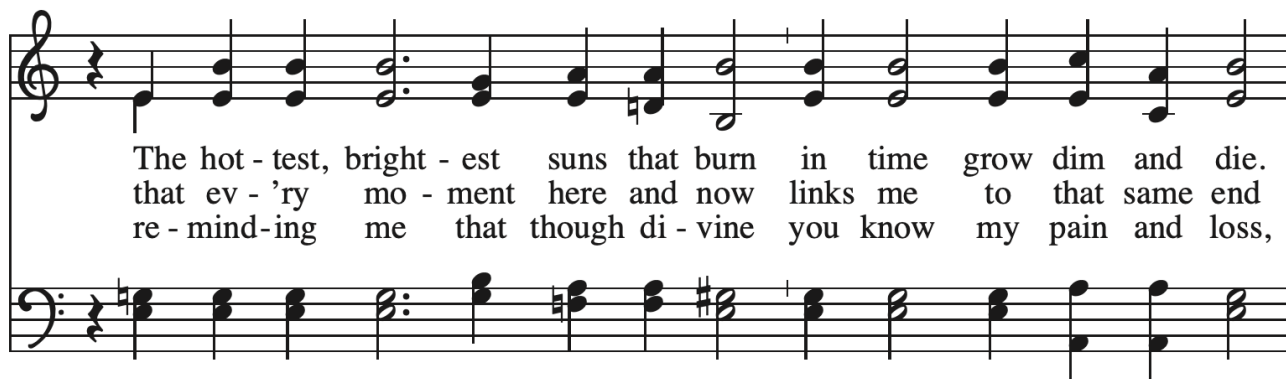
Choral Scholar: Nicole Hamilton

Broadcast: Jason Smolak

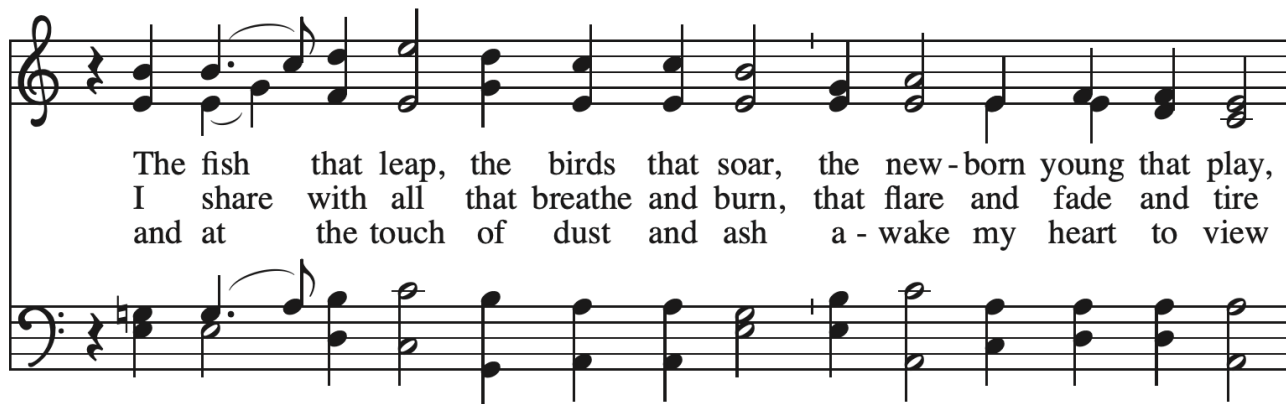
All Things of Dust to Dust Return



1 All things of dust to dust re - turn on earth and in the sky.
2 Lord, mark with dust and ash my brow so I may com-pre-hend
3 Lord, mark up - on my brow this sign: a stark and bar - ren cross



The hot - test, bright - est suns that burn in time grow dim and die.
that ev - 'ry mo - ment here and now links me to that same end
re - mind - ing me that though di - vine you know my pain and loss,



The fish that leap, the birds that soar, the new - born young that play,
I share with all that breathe and burn, that flare and fade and tire
and at the touch of dust and ash a - wake my heart to view



the leaves that fill the for - est floor re - vert to dust and clay.
yet by their wan - ing light dis - cern your own un - dy - ing fire.
how death it - self is but a flash that dies a - way in you.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Music: THIRD MODE MELODY, Thomas Tallis, 1505–1585

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Worship Notes

In our prayers Kevin, Betty, George, Anneke, Judy, Clare, Yvonne, Jeanette, Meaghan, Henry, Maureen and John.

All are welcome at the meal where Jesus is present loving and forgiving us. For the wine, there is a common cup station and a pouring chalice station (please take an empty small glass). There is also a small tray of pre-poured grape juice glasses. Gluten-free wafers are also available; please indicate this request to the Pastor. If you would (also) like to receive a blessing, please approach the Pastor with your arms crossed over your chest. If you'd like to receive Communion in your pew, the pastor will come to you. Please let an usher or the pastor know before worship if possible.

Important Information for today's worship

- **Offering:** Please place your offering in one of the offering plates in the Narthex (entranceway) upon entering. The offering plates will be presented at the High Altar during the service.
- **The Peace:** We support people's choices for passing of the peace.
- **Exiting:** At the end of the service, please remain in place until the end of the postlude.
- **Please join us for Fellowship Time** after worship in the Community Hall. Use any of the staircases (Narthex, west stair tower, parking lot tower) to go down.
- **Downstairs Washrooms** can be accessed via any of the staircases. There is one wheelchair accessible washroom, and the rest are all-gender washrooms. A further all-gender washroom is also available via the west stair tower door (front left of the Sanctuary) on the same level. Turn right at the hallway.



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Revive Lent

EQUIPPING LAY LEADERS TO BE SPIRITUAL LEADERS

TUESDAYS 1.30 PM - 3:00 PM

MARCH 4: DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL STORY

MAR 18: TELLING YOUR SPIRITUAL STORY

MAR 25: WHAT IS PRAYER AND HOW DO WE PRAY?

APRIL 1: MAKING SPACE, AND PRAYING THE LECTIO
AND VISIO DIVINA

APRIL 8: PRAYING THROUGH THE HURT

APRIL 16: DEATH AND DYING, AND PRAYING WITH
JESUS IN THE GARDEN

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St. Matthews Lutheran Church

Lenten Oasis

12:00 Organ Recital
12:30 Soup Lunch
Admission: Pay-what-you-can

March 12:
David Hall

St. Paul's Lutheran, Cambridge

March 19:
Bradley Moggach

St. Peter's Lutheran, Cambridge

March 26:
Angus Sinclair

St. John the Evangelist Anglican, Kitchener

April 2:
Kathleen King Martin
First United, Waterloo

April 9:
Mark Himmelman
Church of the Holy Saviour, Waterloo

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TAKE A *breath*

2025 MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

2 UNITED CHURCHES & 2 LUTHERAN CHURCHES + 1 ANGLICAN PRIEST

First United Waterloo



Worship 7:00 pm

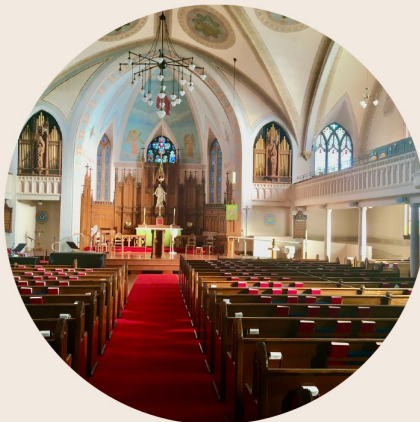
TUES
MARCH
25

Presider: Rev. Hoeun Lee

Preacher: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

FIRST UNITED CHURCH, 16 WILLIAM ST W, WATERLOO

St. Matthews Lutheran



Soup Supper 5:00 pm

Worship 7:00 pm

Holden Evening Prayer

WED
APRIL
2

Presiders: Rev. Brenda Torrie

Rev. Carey. Meadows-Helmer

Preacher: Rev. Mario Hryniewicz

ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN CHURCH , 54 BENTON ST, KITCHENER



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH, BRIDGEPORT





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