

HAINESVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ BEING THE CHURCH AT HOME

YouTube Worship Service ~ Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021 Pastor Trent Zeitler

Welcome

Call to Worship

We are invited into the story, into this space, into this time of worship.

We are invited into reflection, into community, into our own spiritual journeys.

We are invited - the broken and bruised, the hopeful, the new, the faithful, the doubting, the wondering, the waiting.

We are invited because God so loved; so listen, trust the invitation, and bring your whole self.

All are invited here.

Greeting

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Let us Pray. Creator God,

There is a rumbling in us that won't let go. It stirs in us like the wind - inviting us to move, drawing us forth. When we're quiet, we know that rumble is the Holy Spirit, dancing love awake in us. So we're here. And we're still. And we're quiet. And on this first day of Lent, we're asking you to draw near. As we hear your scripture read aloud, open the door for us to move. Invite us in. Rumble us awake.

Gratefully we pray,

Amen.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“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.

²“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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“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. ⁶But 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.

¹⁶“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. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Hymn ELW 599

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

- 1 Lord Jesus, think on me,
and purge away my sin;
from selfish passions set me free
and make me pure within.
- 2 Lord Jesus, think on me,
by anxious thoughts oppressed;
let me your loving servant be
and taste your promised rest.
- 3 Lord Jesus, think on me,
nor let me go astray;
through darkness and perplexity
point out your chosen way.
- 4 Lord Jesus, think on me,
that, when the flood is past,
I may the eternal brightness see
and share your joy at last.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene trans. Allen W. Chatfield; Music: SOUTHWELL; onelicense.net Song #97943

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in an inviting God
Who invites the poor and the sick,
The outcast and the lonely,
The immigrant and the refugee,
The awkward and the abrasive,
The young and the innocent.
We believe God invites the best and the worst—
In all of us.
We believe God invites us to:
A life of faith,
A crowded table,
A messy church,
A deeper truth,
A resilient joy,
A place to belong,
A family among strangers,
A world that is just,
And a love that knows no bounds.
We believe this invitation exists for all people.
We believe this invitation exists for us.
And when we miss the call or ignore the invite,
We believe that God invites us again.
Thanks be to God for that invitational Spirit. **Amen.**

Call to Confession

Ash Wednesday is a special day because it marks the start of something new. We are standing at the door of a journey into deeper faith, and God is inviting us in. However, we know that we cannot grow deeper and be transformed without God's help. So as we begin this season, we confess together, asking for God's participation in this new beginning. We are asking God to hold open the door.

Prayer of Confession

Let us pray.
Holy God—
We know that you are near,
For you are always here, gathered among us, just a breath away.
And despite knowing your nearness, we still stumble over ourselves, unsure of how to pray.
Bring our hearts into the room.

So often we talk to you like a stranger,
Praying prayers of small talk about the weather and surface level concerns.
We keep genuine fear and doubt tucked into corners, out of sight, out of mind.
Bring our hearts into the room.

And so often we try to think our way to you,
As if we could use logic or our minds alone to explain your great unknown.
We forget what we knew as children; we forget how to feel our way to you.
Bring our hearts into the room.

And too regularly, we limit our experience of you to one hour a Sunday,
Missing your constant invitation into the holiness all around us.
Forgive us. Guide us.
Bring our hearts into the room.

We are here, God. We want to begin again.
Bring our hearts into the room.

Receiving the Sign of the Cross

In his Letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul writes, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:3-4) By God's grace and mercy through baptism, through the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the forgiveness of sins, we have received the gift new life. Let us now acknowledge our adoption as God's children, our human mortality, and the promise of eternal life realized now by receiving the sign of the cross traced with the earthly element of water used in baptism.

(Utilizing your bowl of water, dip your finger and trace the sign of the cross either on yourself or on a member in your household)

Turn from sin and turn to the gospel.
Receive the cross + of Christ.

Words of Forgiveness

Friends, whether you are standing at the door of a deeper faith journey,
Unsure of what comes next,
Or running your way through that threshold,
You are claimed, forgiven, and loved by God.

Again and again, we are forgiven.

Again and again, we are loved.

Again and again, we are invited in.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Amen.

Prayers of God's People

On this Ash Wednesday, we pray for the church and for all in need. Let these bids encourage our spoken or silent prayers.

Let us pray for the church throughout the world.

Let us pray for our community of faith.

Let us pray for the health of plants and animals.

Let us pray for all who care for the earth.

Let us pray for peace throughout the world.

Let us pray for an increase of justice in our land.

Let us pray for a spirit of compassion throughout our society.

Let us pray for the hungry, the homeless, the unemployed.

Let us pray for the end of this pandemic.

Let us pray for all who are sick or suffering.

Let us pray for all who today will die.

Let us thank God for all who have gone before us in the faith.

Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

Blessing and Sending

As you leave this space,
May your mouth speak of God's goodness.
May your arms hold those in need.
May your feet walk toward justice.
May your heart trust its worth.
May your soul dance in God's grace.
And may this be your rhythm—
Again and again and again,
Until God's promised day.
In the name of the Lover, ☩ the Beloved, and Love itself,
Amen.

Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace.
Thanks be to God....and we will !!!

Hymn ELW 326

“Bless Now, O God, the Journey”

- 1 Bless now, O God, the journey
that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence,
the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert
and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters,
the road where faith is found.**
- 2 Bless sojourners and pilgrims
who share this winding way;
your hope burns through the terrors,
your love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom
while often we are bound;
together we are seeking
the road where faith is found.**
- 3 Divine eternal lover,
you meet us on the road.
We wait for land of promise
where milk and honey flow,
but waiting not for places,
you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written
on roads, as faith is found.**

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan; Music: Welsh Tune LLANGLOFFAN; Text © 1991 onelicense.net #08081

Texts, Prayers, Blessings, and Words for Worship taken from sundaysandseasons.com, ECSW Bishop Anne Edison-Albright's blog, Sanctified Art LLC and Rev. Sarah Are, and ELCA Worship in the Home.