



Service of Ashes
February 26, 2020

No matter who you are,
No matter where you are
On life's journey,
You are welcome here.

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"We must often meditate on the presence of death, which we do when by God's grace we make an account of every present day, as if it were the present day of our death; reckon with ourselves when we go to bed as though we should never rise again; and when we rise, as though we should never lie down again."

William Perkins, *Salve for a Sick Man*

PRELUDE

Komm, süßer Tod BWV 478
(Come, Sweet Death)
Kurt R. Hansen, tenor
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

J. S. Bach

CHORAL INTROIT

What Wondrous Love Is This
Chancel Choir

Southern Harmony

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven.

All: Blessed are those in whose spirit there is no deceit.

One: While I kept silence, my body wasted away.

All: Then I acknowledged my sin and said:

"I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."

One: And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

All: You surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

* *Please stand if you are able to do so.*

* HYMN

Softly and Tenderly



1. Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
2. Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
3. Time is now fleet - ing, the mo - ments are pass - ing, pass - ing from
4. O for the won - der - ful love Je - sus prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me;___ See at the por - tals Christ wait - ing and
you and for me?___ Why should we lin - ger and heed not God's
you and from me;___ Shad - ows are gath - er - ing, death - beds are
you and for me;___ Though we have sinned Je - sus of - fers us



watch - ing, watch - ing for you and for me. ___
mer - cies, mer - cies for you and for me? ___ Come home, ___ come
com - ing, com - ing for you and for me. ___
par - don, par - don for you and for me. ___



home, ___ All who are wea - ry come home; ___ Ear - nest - ly,



ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing— call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

BIBLICAL WORD FOR THIS DAY

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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

RESPONSE

Be Still My Soul

v. 1

1. Be still, my soul: for God is on your side; _____ bear pa - tient -
 2. Be still, my soul: for God will un - der - take _____ to guide in
 3. Be still, my soul: the hour will soon be here _____ when we shall

-ly the cross of grief or pain; _____ Leave to your God to
 fu - ture days as in the past. _____ Your hope, your con - fi -
 be with God whom we a - dore, _____ with dis - ap - point - ment

or - der and pro - vide; _____ in ev - ery change God
 - dence let noth - ing shake; _____ all now mys - te - rious
 gone, no grief nor fear, _____ sor - row re - placed with

faith - ful will re - main. _____ Be still, my soul: your best e - ter - nal
 shall be clear at last. _____ Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still
 joy for - ev - er - more. _____ Be still, my soul: when change and tears are

friend _____ through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
 know _____ how Je - sus' pow - er ruled them long a - go.
 past, _____ all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

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. But 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.

RESPONSE

Be Still My Soul

v.2

See previous insert.

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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so 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.

RESPONSE

Be Still My Soul

v.3

See previous insert.

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

* A STATEMENT OF FAITH

**We believe in God who has created and is creating,
who has come to us in Jesus Christ to reconcile and make us new,
who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.**

**We trust God. God calls us to be the Church,
to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to care for creation,
to seek justice and to resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

In life and death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

(adapted from the United Church of Canada)

RESPONSE

Just As I Am

v. 1

1. Just_ as I am,___ with - out___ one plea But
2. Just_ as I am,___ though tossed a - bout With
3. Just_ as I am,___ poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight,
4. Just_ as I am,___ thou wilt___ re - ceive, Wilt

that_ thy blood was shed for me, And that thou bidd'st me
man - y a con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears_ with -
rich - es, heal - ing of the mind; Yea, all I need_ in
wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; Be - cause thy prom - ise

come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 - in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

SERMON

Ars Moriendi

Jeff Carlson

* HYMN

Just As I Am

v. 2-4

See previous insert.

OFFERTORY

Abide With Me
 Chancel Choir

William H. Monk
 arr. Moses Hogan

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide,
 The darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide.
 When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
 Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
 I need Thy presence every passing hour.
 What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
 Who like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
 Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most holy and merciful God: We confess to you and to one another, 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.
We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.
We confess to you our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our exploitation of other people, our failure to care for your creation, and our lack of concern for future generations.
Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done.

AGNUS DEI

Richard Webster

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
Grant us peace.

SILENT REFLECTION AND PERSONAL CONFESSION

*Use the blank piece of paper in your bulletin for personal confession.
Bring it forward to the container on the table when instructed.*

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*If you wish to receive ashes, remain at the front after placing your confession in the container.
If you do not wish to receive ashes, return to your seat.
If you do not wish to come forward at all, please remain seated.*

MEDITATION

Komm, süßer Tod
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

J. S. Bach
arr. Virgil Fox

Come, sweet death, come, blessed rest!
Come lead me to peace for I am weary of the world,
O come! I wait for you, come soon and lead me,
close my eyes. Come, blessed rest!

PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

There Is A Balm In Gilead arr. William Dawson
Chancel Choir African-American Spiritual
Todd Coe and Karin Magnuson, soloists

Refrain: There is a Balm in Gilead,
To make the wounded whole,
There is a Balm in Gilead,
To heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged,
And think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit,
revives my soul again. *Refrain*

If you cannot sing like angels,
If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus,
And say he died for all. *Refrain*

* LITANY OF ASSURANCE

One: There is therefore now no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus.

All: If God is for us, who is against us?

One: For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus
has set us free from the law of sin and death.

**All: The sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing
with the glory to be revealed to us.**

One: We know that all things work together for good
for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose.

**All: If God is for us, who is against us?
It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn?**

* HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This



1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul! O my soul! What
2. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to
3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and



wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is
God and to the Lamb, I will sing; To God and to the
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! And when from death I'm

this! that Christ should come in bliss to bear the heav - y cross for my
 Lamb who is the great I Am, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 free, I'll sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the heav - y cross for my soul! _____
 sing, I will sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing. _____
 on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on! _____

* BENEDICTION

After the benediction, the congregation will follow the pastors to the courtyard for the burning of the confessions.

POSTLUDE

Toccata in e minor
 Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

J. Pachelbel

TONIGHT'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: Fred Pearson, Layne Lebahn, Bruce Voice, David Baker

Head Greeter: Greg Mooney

Greeter: Sheryl Mooney

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

TONIGHT'S MUSIC - In the Prelude, Bach (1685–1750) created the melody for a message that is central to Luther, *Come Sweet Death*. We tend to see such words in our modern age as depressing and even suicidal. In Luther and Bach's era, the "sweet" part was going to be with God, to be released from the cares and pains of this life; to cross over into the Promised Land.

What Wondrous Love Is This is another truly great and uniquely American hymn. Neither the author or composer is known, and it was first published in Southern Harmony, in the same early 19th Century era as the Sacred Harp. Musically, it has both a spiritual slow swing and an open harmony with very few major chords.

The text for *Abide With Me* was written by Henry F. Lyte (1793–1847) in the last year of his life. After preaching the last sermon of his career, Rev. Lyte, gave a copy of this hymn text to a relative. Lyte died two months later. The familiar hymn tune is by William H. Monk (1823-1889). Moses Hogan (1957–2003) continued and amplified the great tradition of spiritual arrangement that William Dawson is apart of. He recorded a number of compact disks and written solo arrangements for singers like Kathleen Battle. He was commissioned by St. Pauls to write a piece, *I got a home in-a that rock*, in honor of Ron McCowan's 25 years of service to this congregation.

There Is A Balm In Gilead was arranged by William Dawson (1899–1990). Dawson was choral director for many years at the Tuskegee Institute of Alabama. He was responsible along with others of his generation like Hall Johnson for making beautiful arrangements of spirituals that spread the performance and popularity of that music within and beyond the African-American community. Tuskegee Choir gained international stature under Dr. Dawson's leadership.

Be Still My Soul uses a tune called FINLANDIA, because the melody was composed by Jean Sibelius (1865–1957) as part of his famous tone poem by the same name that honored his homeland. The original German text is by Kathrina von Schlegel (1697–17??) and it was translated into English by Scottish Jane Borthwick (1813–1897) who translated and composed many hymn texts.

Just As I Am is a hymn that many of us associate with the crusades of Billy Graham (1918–2018). The text by Charlotte Elliot (1789–1871) and appears in over 1600 hymnals in many languages. The tune, WOODWORTH, was composed by William B. Bradbury (1816–1868) in 1849. He also composed the children's hymn *Jesus Loves Me This I Know*.

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) by Richard Webster (b. 1952) was composed in 2001 as a congregational setting to be sung during the communion liturgy. Richard is a composer, organist and conductor. For many years he was the Organist-Choir Master at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Evanston. He founded the Evanston Bach Week, and is currently the Associate Director of Music at Trinity Church in Boston. Richard and Kurt, our Music Director, were students at Northwestern at the same time.

PERSONAL CONFESSION

Included in this evening's bulletin is a blank piece of paper on which you may write a personal confession or some other burden that you wish to give to God: a grudge you no longer want to carry, a secret you no longer need to keep to yourself, a resentment you no longer wish to nurture, a grief you no longer care to bear alone. Please come forward during the imposition of ashes to place your personal confession in the offering plate in the front of the church. Following the service, the confessions will be burned as our offering to God. If you do not wish to receive ashes, you may bring your confession forward and simply return to your seat. If you do not wish to come forward at all, you may remain seated.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent for the Christian Church. Lent is a 40-day period before Easter patterned after the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert in fasting and prayer. The 40 days do not include Sundays, which are considered "days of resurrection" in the midst of a time of confession and prayer.

Ash Wednesday, which was first observed in the fourth century, has been linked most often to the Roman Catholic Church, but it actually predates Roman Catholicism and comes from our common early church heritage. Ash Wednesday, along with several other "acts" of worship, was lost during the Protestant Reformation as a result of that period's heavy emphasis on preaching the Word. The imposition of ashes upon the foreheads of believers was, and is, a sign of human mortality. The ancient Biblical reference is from Genesis 3, when God speaks these words Adam and Eve: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."

In a day when the grand promise of human progress and potential has come to some not-so-grand ends, it is necessary for all Christians to bear public witness to the fact that we human beings do not have the final word in life. We are not all good, all powerful, all loving; only God is, and we must recognize it.

During the service, we will make a statement of confession and recognize our human limitation through the ashes. We appreciate your presence at the Ash Wednesday Service whether you come forward to participate in the imposition of ashes or choose to remain seated during this part of the service.

LENT AND EASTER AT ST PAULS

- WED, FEB 26 ASH WEDNESDAY - 7:30 p.m.
-Begin Lent with ashes and prayer
- SUN, MAR 15 REQUIEM by Maurice Duruflé - 10:00 a.m.
-Sung with organ & orchestra by our Chancel Choir during worship
- SAT, APRIL 4 EASTER EGG HUNT - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
-Egg hunt in the Sanctuary, pictures with the easter bunny, crafts
- SUN, APRIL 5 PALM SUNDAY - 10:00 a.m.
-Palm branches, songs, Elmhurst College Jazz Band
- THU, APRIL 9 MAUNDY THURSDAY - 7:00 p.m.
-Dinner Church: eat, pray, sing. Please RSVP at
spucc.org/worship-music/2020-lent-easter
- FRI, APRIL 10 GOOD FRIDAY - 7:30 p.m.
-Communion, Tenebrae with choir
- SUN, APRIL 12 EASTER SUNDAY - 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
-Communion, choir, brass
- SUN, APRIL 19 PANCAKE CHURCH
-Worship over breakfast, Gym

ALSO

LENTEN GROUPS & SHORT CIRCLES

6-week small groups, devotional classics readings, movie group, women's book group. Sign up at signupgenius.com/go/30e084baaac2daaf94-2020

SINGING OUR FAITH - Kurt Hansen will present a two-part series on a brief History of Music In Worship, from 11:30-12:30 in the Confirmation Classroom off of the Social Hall.

March 8 - Hebrew chant, Gregorian chant, Catholic service music

March 22 - Protestant hymns and choral music

MARTIN & MALCOLM - March 21, 2:00 p.m., Chapel

Dwight Hopkins, the Alexander Campbell Professor of Theology at the University of Chicago Divinity School, will lecture on Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, and their relationship to our current moment. A reception will follow in the Parlor. Please RSVP to Pastor Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org.

NOTES

NOTES

ABOUT ST. PAULS
Making a Joyful Sound in the City!

Saint Pauls UCC has a vibrant history in the city of Chicago. Founded in 1843, we are one of the city's oldest churches. In 1989, we became one of America's first congregations to declare ourselves "Open to and Affirming of" LGBTQ women and men.

From founding Chicago's largest provider of social services to at-risk children to starting a home for the elderly, from housing protestors at the 1968 Democratic Convention to hosting Lincoln Park's first MLK day march against violence on Chicago's streets, we are proud to make a joyful sound in the city.

Most important, over the past 176 years we are glad to have introduced thousands of children and adults to the amazing, inclusive, life changing, uplifting love of God. We do so in worship that is traditional, but far from conventional.

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EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS ORDER FORM

You can remember a loved one by purchasing a lily or other flowering plant for the Easter Festival Altar. Enclose your gift of \$30 or more per plant with this order form. Purchased plants can be taken home after the 11 a.m. service on Easter Sunday.

In Memory, or in Celebration of

(print name(s) as you wish to appear):

From *(your name(s) as you wish to appear):*

Daytime phone: _____

Email: _____

Drop this form in the offering plate or it mail to:

St Pauls UCC
Attn: Easter Flower Order Form
2335 N. Orchard Street
Chicago, IL 60614

This form, along with your check, **must arrive at the church by April 3**. Any orders received after that date will not be printed in the bulletin.



WELCOME TO SAINT PAULS UCC!

Welcome to those whose hearts are on fire with faith,
and to those who bring their doubt inside our doors.

Welcome to our first time guests and
our longtime members.

Welcome to single people, tiny children,
grandparents and families of all
configurations.

Welcome to those who rejoice and to those who
grieve.

Welcome to each and to everyone.
We are an Open and Affirming church.
We welcome all.

We are blessed by your presence and
we are glad you are here.