

THE FIRST CHURCH OF WEST BRIDGEWATER

Ash Wednesday Service

February 25, 2009

7:00 p.m.

PRELUDE

GREETING

CHALICE LIGHTING

We light this candle to honor Jesus as the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was waiting endured the cross.

UNISON PRAYER

Merciful God, we thank you for sending Jesus to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate those who are oppressed, and to proclaim the year of Your favor. Bless us with your Spirit of Forgiveness that we might know our sinful nature, repent of our inhumane actions, and be renewed in faith and Love. Amen.

* HYMN "Seek Ye First" H no. 370

SCRIPTURE Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Bible p. 882

SILENT PRAYER "Laments"

HYMN "Lord Listen To Your Children Praying" H no. 403

SCRIPTURE Psalm 51 H no. 632

SILENT PRAYER "Confessions"

SCRIPTURE Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Bible p. 938

READING

OFFERTORY

Invitation

Hymn "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" H no. 173

* Doxology verse 1 H no. 562

 verse 2 (Isaac Watts) tune of no. 562

Were the whole realm of nature mine,

That were a present far too small;

Love so amazing, so divine

Demands my soul, my life, my all.

CONFESSION

L: As disciples of Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor.

Repentance, fasting, prayer, study and works of love help us return to that love. Let us pray.

P: Most holy and merciful God: we confess to you and 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.

L: We have not loved you with all our heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Jesus served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives.

P: We confess to you, O God.

L: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people.

P: We confess to you, O God.

L: Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

P: We confess to you, O God.

L: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in our daily life and work.

P: We confess to you, O God.

L: Our negligence in prayer and worship and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.

P: We confess to you, O God.

L: Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.

P: Accept our repentance, O God.

L: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us.

P: Accept our repentance, O God.

L: For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us.

P: Accept our repentance, O God.

L: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

P: Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great. Amen.

ASHES OF FORGIVENESS

* HYMN "My Faith Looks Up To Thee" H no. 361

* PRAYER The Lord's Prayer

* BLESSING

* POSTLUDE

THE FIRST CHURCH OF WEST BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

Est. 1651



"We the members of The First Church of West Bridgewater united by the love of one another and guided by the teachings of Jesus, hold it to be our purpose to maintain a welcoming house for the worship of God; to teach and study the lessons of our faith, to develop programs for those in need; and to sponsor fellowship opportunities. All this we support in order to build a mutually sustaining and caring community of faith."
