

Ash Wednesday Community Service, Glen Rock, PA  
Wednesday, February 17, 2021

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Psalm 51: 1-17** *Read responsively by Pastor Haack & Pastor Spangler*

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

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

3 For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

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

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

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

7 Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

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

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

10 **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

12 **Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

13 Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

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

15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

16 **For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.**

**You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

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

**Prayer of the Day.** *Led by Pastor Stewart*

Let us pray. Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**First Reading** 2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10

20bWe entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6:1As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 2For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! 3We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; 6by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, 7truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; 9as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; 10as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Meditation** Pastor Art Grahe

**Invitation to Lent** *Read by Pastor Haack*

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus’ passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God’s mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

**Confession of Sin.** *Led by Pastor Spangler & Pastor Stewart*

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most holy and merciful God, **we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous 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.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

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

**Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

**Imposition of Ashes** *Led by Pastor Haack*

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*If you have prepared some ashes they may be used to make the sign of the cross on your forehead or you may simply make the sign of the cross on your forehead as the pastor says:*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*The pastor continues:*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation, that we may show forth your glory in the world. By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior, bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection. Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

**Prayers of Intersession** *Led by Pastor Stewart & Pastor Spangler*

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

As we begin the journey toward our celebration of the resurrection, we pray that we may find ourselves drawn ever closer to our Lord Jesus as we journey with him toward Jerusalem and the agony of the cross. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all gathered here in worship. Free us from the blindness of pride that prevents us from admitting when we are wrong and from the self-will that insists on its own way. Help us to live at peace with each other, you and ourselves. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Especially this day we pray for the sick and shut ins, the chaos and brokenness caused by the pandemic and the fears it has aroused; we also pray for the congregations who share together in this service, the church universal, all nations of the world and their leaders, and for all people distressed and seeking. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We remember the faithful who have gone before us and returned to dust. Help us to follow their example of living with hope and courage until that time when you call us home to you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

**Offering.** *All Lenten Community Offerings will support the Well which has been providing hot ‘grab-n-go’ meals to the community during the pandemic. It also runs a small non-perishable food pantry. Donations to the Well can be made in care of Immanuel United Methodist Church, 1 New St., Glen Rock, PA 17327.*

**Offering Prayer** *Led by Pastor Spangler*

Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Communion.** *Led by Pastor Grahe & Pastor Haack*

Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

**In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving food.**

This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God’s people.

**We come to this table, O Lord, in company with tax collectors and sinners. We acknowledge that we are not worthy to partake of this holy meal. Yet, on the promise of our Lord Jesus Christ, we come to be forgiven and to be made whole again. Grant that as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we may be at one with Christ in his pilgrimage to the cross, die there with him, and when “He is risen” and greets Easter’s morn, may we, also, be raised with him to new life. Amen.**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks: For your creating hand that brought the worlds into being and fashions every living thing, and for stretching your holy arm to bring your people in every generation from bondage to freedom.

**Receive our thanks, O God.**

For coming to us in Jesus our Lord, sharing our human lot. Suffering and dying for us, and being raised that we, too, may share in resurrection life:

**Receive our Praise, O God.**

For the outpouring of your Holy Spirit, calling and empowering the church with an abundance of spiritual gifts:

**Receive our Praise, O God.**

Be present at our table, Lord!

**Be here and everywhere adored!**

Bless now this bread and wine we share,

**For heaven's banquet us prepare**

*(Breaking)* The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

*(Pouring)* In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

*If you do not have bread and wine, share the gift of God's love by saying to each other: "Peace be With You."*

*Those who have bread may now share it with one another as the pastor says:*

The body of Christ, given for you.

**Amen.**

*Those who have wine or grape juice may now share it with one another as the pastor says:*

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Amen.**

**Prayer after Communion.** *Led by Pastor Stewart*

Let us pray. Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's Love. Unite us with all who are fed by this love that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen**

**Blessing & Dismissal.** *Led by Pastor Haack*

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

## Glen Rock Community Pastors

Rev. Norman (Skip) Spangler, Immanuel United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. W. Arthur Grahe, Trinity United Church of Christ

Rev. Paul Haack, Zion Lutheran Church

Rev. Dr. David Stewart, New Hope (Fissel's) United Church of Christ