



Of Ash and Clay

Ash Wednesday
February 17th, 2021

WELCOME

People of all ages, identities, and walks of life are welcome.
Wherever you are, whoever you are, we welcome you in love and community to worship.
Wherever we are, we're close in one another's hearts.

*Toutes et tous sont bienvenus, peu importe l'âge, l'identité ou les conditions de vie.
Peu importe où que vous soyez, qui que vous soyez, nous vous accueillons dans l'amour et la communauté pour louer
Dieu ensemble. Notre amour n'est jamais limité par la distance.*

Bold print for congregational response

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Merging Waters Pastoral Charge is located on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples and nations. Merging Waters honours, recognizes and respects these nations as the traditional stewards of the lands and waters on which we meet and live today.

Genesis 2:7 then the THE HOLY ONE formed humans from the dust of the ground, and breathed into their nostrils the breath of life; and they became living beings.

Genesis 3:19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

Come, you who are toiling, you who are bound-up;
Liberating God, hear our cries for mercy!
Come, you who are lost, you who are hopeless;
Redeeming Christ, turn us to your light!
Come, you who are angry, you who are hurting;
Cleansing Spirit, enter in to our hearts!
Come, for confession, for forgiveness, for restoration!
Holy One, free us, heal us, bless us!

**As a fire is meant for burning
with a bright and warming flame,
so the church is meant for mission,
giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs,
but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nations,
finding neighbours everywhere.**

CONFESSION – *based on Psalm 51:1-17*

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

You know my transgressions, Righteous God, and so do we.

We have done what is evil in your sight.

Please...

Please...

As your people, we have not been as faithful as we could be.

But we do not know how to escape from our sin.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

We pass judgment on others;

We forget that it is not ours to judge.

Please...

Please...

Do not cast us away from you;

Do not take your Holy Spirit from us.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

Wipe away wrongdoings, God of Mercy;

Hide your face from our transgressions, God of Love.

Please...

Please...

Create in us a clean heart.

Put a new and right spirit within us.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

Sustain in us a willing spirit;

And restore to us the joy of your salvation.

Please...

Please...

You desire truth in our inward being;

Therefore, teach us wisdom in our secret heart

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

Let us hear joy and gladness;

Let us sing aloud of your deliverance!

Please...

Please...

Our sacrifices will not appease you

It is our genuine selves that you desire.

Have mercy on us, O Holy One, according to your steadfast love.

Deliver us from bloodshed, God of our salvation,

And we will declare your praise!

Have mercy on us, O God,

According to your steadfast love.

Then we will become an example for faithfulness;

And we will help others return to your ways.

Have mercy on us, Great Spirit, according to your steadfast love.

a moment of silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

HYMN VOICES UNITED 578

As A Fire Is Meant For Burning v.2

We are learners; we are teachers;

we are pilgrims on the way.

We are seekers; we are givers;

we are vessels made of clay.

By our gentle, loving actions,

we would show that Christ is light.

In a humble, listening Spirit,

we would live to God's delight.

HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Jeremiah 18:1-10 The Message

GOD told Jeremiah, "Up on your feet! Go to the potter's house. When you get there, I'll tell you what I have to say."

So I went to the potter's house, and sure enough, the potter was there, working away at his wheel. Whenever the pot the potter was working on turned out badly, as sometimes happens when you are working with clay, the potter would simply start over and use the same clay to make another pot.

Then GOD's Message came to me: "Can't I do just as this potter does, people of Israel?" GOD's Decree! "Watch this potter. In the same way that this potter works his clay, I work on you, people of Israel. At any moment I may decide to pull up a people or a country by the roots and get rid of them. But if they repent of their wicked lives, I will think twice and start over with them. At another time I might decide to plant a people or country, but if they don't cooperate and won't listen to me, I will think again and give up on the plans I had for them.

“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.

“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.

ASH AND CLAY

We are not imposing ashes in person this year, as we are not meeting in-person, but if you have ash, soil, or clay you can join Rev. Fea in marking the shape of the cross upon your forehead. With or without the mark of the cross we can all share in a reflection upon the message of Ash Wednesday together.

RESPONSE

As clay to the potter,
Work your will in us.

REFLECTION

Candling The Kiln: Prepare To Get Fired

HYMN VOICES UNITED 578

As A Fire Is Meant For Burning v.3

**As a green bud in the springtime
 is a sign of life renewed,
 so may we be signs of oneness
 mid earth's peoples, many-hued.
 As a rainbow lights the heavens
 when a storm is past and gone,
 may our lives reflect the radiance
 of God's new and glorious dawn.**

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

