



March 5, 2025
Ash Wednesday

CENTERING AND PRELUDE

24 Pièces en Style Libre

Op. 31, No. 7 Méditation

Composer: Louis Vierne, 1870 - 1937

Ann Bartlow, Organ

WELCOME

Kris Neale, Ministry Intern

SCRIPTURE READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Jane Rall, Liturgist

OPENING PRAYER

Jane Rall, Liturgist

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| ONE: | If you have days when you feel a little bit lost and a little bit found, |
| ALL: | then you are in the right place. |
| ONE: | If you have days when you are desperate for rest and eager to grow, |

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| ALL: | then you are in the right place. |
| ONE: | If you have days when your prayers could be both shouts and silence, |
| ALL: | then you are in the right place. |
| ONE: | God meets us here, in the messy middle of our lives. |
| ALL: | So may we bring our full selves into this service and into this season. |
| ONE: | With God's help, may it be so. |
| ALL: | Let us worship our all-loving God. |

ANTHEM

Fix Me Jesus

Traditional Spiritual, arr. Jacqueline B. Hairston, b. 1932

Publisher: Gentry Publications

Chancel Choir: Dr. Michael Wu, Director

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 51:1-17 (UMH #785-786)

Jane Rall, Liturgist

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| ONE: | Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; |
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| ALL: | According to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions; |
| ONE: | wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin! |
| ALL: | For I know my transgressions and my sin is ever before me. |
| ONE: | Against you, you only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in your sight, So that you are justified in your sentence and blameless in your judgement. |
| ALL: | Behold, I was born into iniquity and I have been sinful since my mother conceived me. |
| ALL: | <u>Sung response:</u> Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. |
| ONE: | Behold, you desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. |
| ALL: | Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow; |
| ONE: | Make me hear with joy and gladness; let the bones which you have broken rejoice. |

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| ALL: | Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. |
| ALL: | <u>Sung response:</u> Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. |
| ONE: | Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. |
| ALL: | Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your holy Spirit from me. |
| ONE: | Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. |
| ALL: | Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. |
| ONE: | Deliver me from death, O God, God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance. |
| ALL: | O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth your praise. |
| ONE: | For you have no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. |
| ALL: | The sacrifice acceptable to God is broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. |

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| ALL: | <u>Sung response:</u> Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. |
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SCRIPTURE

Luke 9:51-62

REFLECTION

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell, Pastor

*HYMN #267

O Love, How Deep (verses 1–3)

Words: 15th century Latin; trans.: Benjamin Webb, 1854, alt

Music: English melody; harm.: from *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, Revised, 1950

Congregation and Choir Chancel

Ann Bartlow, Organ

MARKED BY ASH

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell, Pastor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Kris Neale, Ministry Intern

Call to confession

ONE: Lent is a season that invites us to be intentional.

Lent asks us, how will you go deeper these next six weeks?

How will you grow closer to God and your neighbor?

What will you do to strengthen your faith?

Much like Christ, Lent invites us to go deeper.

Despite our best efforts, that soul-tending work is often easier said than done. However,

instead of entering this season already feeling behind, let us enter this season with honesty.

Let us enter this season aware of our hopes, and aware of the challenges. Let us enter this season wrapped in God's grace.

Friends, join me in speaking honestly to God.

Join me in receiving mercy. Let us pray:

Prayer of confession

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| ONE: | Jesus said, "Follow me." |
| ALL: | And I said, let me get ready. |
| ONE: | Jesus said, "follow me." |
| ALL: | And I said, just one minute! |
| ONE: | Jesus said, "Follow me." |
| ALL: | And I said, I'll be there soon! |

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| ONE: | The invitation is simple, but the work is hard. |
| ALL: | Jesus, forgive my delay. I want to follow you. Turn my intentions into actions. Show me the way. Amen. |

Words of forgiveness

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| ONE: | Lent asks, |
| ALL: | “How will you go deeper? How will you follow Christ?” |
| ONE: | Regardless of what that journey looks like for us, |
| ALL: | regardless of what today, tomorrow, or the next day brings, |
| ONE: | we are not alone. |
| ALL: | We are seen and loved by God. |
| ONE: | We are held in grace. |
| ALL: | Thanks be to God for a love like that. |

SHARING THE PEACE

PASTORAL PRAYER FOR FAITHFULNESS

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

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| ONE: | Let us implore the Lord our God praying, |
| ALL: | “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” |
| ONE: | We pray for leaders of the Church. May they serve as examples to those who would come to believe in Christ for eternal life. May the Church place its hope in you, O God, and not in human wisdom. |

Silence

***HYMN #354**

I Surrender All

Words: J. W. Deventer, 1896

Music: W. S. Weeden, 1896

Congregation and Chancel Choir

Ann Bartlow, Organ

SENDING FORTH

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

POSTLUDE

Trois Improvisations: II. Petit Canon

Composer: Nadia Boulanger, 1887 - 1979

Ann Bartlow, Organ

SERVING US TODAY

Acolyte: Austin Fish and Cora Miller

Altar Guild for March: Debbie Spriggs

Audio Visual Volunteers: Jason Spriggs

Chat Room Host: Mary Stark

Liturgist: Jane Rall

Welcome Team: Tamara James-Fish and Karen Johnston

LEADERSHIP BOARD

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Rachel Hedrick

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Mike Kitzman

Nancy Kneisly

Pastor Laura Norvell

Jane Rall

Janelle Veazey

Jennifer Young

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Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell, Pastor

Ann Bartlow, Organist

André Coleman, Tenor Section Leader

Valerie Kunsman, Office Administrator

Kris Neale, Ministry Intern

Curtis Osborne, Coordinator of Intergenerational Nurture

Tessa Ricketts, Nursery Staff

Suzanne Smedberg, Youth Coordinator

Kim Webster, Finance Manager

Dr. Michael Wu, Music Director

Acknowledgements: Opening Prayer: "Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org."; Marked by Ash: Invitation to the observance of Lenten discipline (BOW p322- 323) (adapted); Prayer of Confession: "Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org."; Pastoral Prayer for Faithfulness: written by Father Jeremiah Williamson and posted on Praying the Scriptures. <http://jeremiahwilliamson.blogspot.ca/>; Sending Forth: "Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org."; Copyright Licensing International #20292994