

EMBRACING JOURNEYS. ENGAGING FAITH.



ASH WEDNESDAY

PLEASE ENTER IN SILENCE



Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church

February 14, 2024

1:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

CARILLION BELLS

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Pastor Denise Diaab

GATHERING MUSIC (7:30 P.M.)

Wenn wir in Höchsten Nöten (*BWV 641*)

J. S. Bach

Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ (*BWV 639*)

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Spirit of the Living God

WELCOME

***HYMN 322**

Spirit of the Living God

Living God

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 58:1-3

Pastor David Gray

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

RESPONSE IN PRAYER

Catch me in my anxious scurrying, Lord, and hold me in this Lenten season; hold my feet to the fire of your grace and make me attentive to my mortality that I may begin to die now to those things that keep me from living with you and with my neighbors on this earth; to grudges and indifference, to certainties that smother possibilities, to my fascination with false securities, to my addiction to sweatless dreams, to my arrogant insistence on how it has to be; to my corrosive fear of dying someday which eats away the wonder of living this day, and the adventure of losing my life in order to find it in you.◇

Time of Silence.

ANTHEM (7:30 P.M.)

Deep River

Adriano Secco

Deep river, my home is over Jordan; deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.

O don't you want to go to that gospel feast; that promised land where all is peace.

Deep river, my home is over Jordan; deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 58:6-9a

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

RESPONSE IN PRAYER

Catch me in my aimless scurrying, Lord, and hold me in this Lenten season: hold my heart to the beat of your grace and create in me a resting place, a kneeling place, a tip-toe place where I can recover from the dis-ease of my grandiosities which fill my mind and calendar with busy self-importance, that I may become vulnerable enough to dare intimacy with the familiar, to listen cup-eared for your summons, and to watch squint eyed for your crooked finger in the crying of a child, in the hunger of the street people, in the fear of the contagion of terrorism in all people, in the rage of those oppressed because of sex or race, in the smoldering resentments of exploited third world nations, in the sullen apathy of the poor and ghetto-strangled people, in my lonely doubt and limping ambivalence; and somehow, during this season of sacrifice, enable me to sacrifice time and possessions and securities, to do something...something about what I see, something to turn the water of my words into the wine of will and risk, into the bread of blood and blisters, into the blessedness of deed of a cross picked up, a saviour followed.◇

Time of Silence.

ANTHEM (7:30 P.M.)

Da Pacem Domine

Arvo Pärt

*Da pacem Domine in diebus nostris
quia non est alius qui pugnet pro nobis
nisi tu Deus noster.*

Give peace, O Lord, in our time
because there is no one else who will fight for us
if not You, our God.

THIRD SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 58:9b-12

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

RESPONSE IN PRAYER

Catch me in my mindless scurrying, Lord, and hold me in this Lenten season: hold my spirit to the beacon of your grace and grant me light enough to walk boldly, to love aggressively; grant me peace enough to want more, to work for more and to submit to nothing less, and to fear only you...only you! Bequeath me not becalmed seas, slack sails and premature benedictions, but breathe into me a torment, storm enough to make within myself and from myself, something...something new, something saving, something true, a gladness of heart, a pitch for a song in the storm, a word of praise lived, a gratitude shared, a cross dared, a joy received. Amen.◇

Time of Silence.

HYMN 322 *(remain seated)*

Spirit of the Living God

Living God

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

HOMILY

Denise Diaab

EXAMEN PRAYER Δ

ANTHEM (7:30 P.M.)

Thou Knowest, Lord

Henry Purcell

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts;
shut not thy merciful ears unto our pray'rs;
but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty.

O holy and most merciful Savior,
thou most worthy Judge eternal,
suffer us not, at our last hour,
for any pains of death, to fall from thee. Amen.

***IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

As a sign of our mortality, come forward to receive an Inscription of the Ashes. If you would prefer to receive ashes in your seat, signal us and we will come to you.

CLOSING 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

Please Leave in Silence.



Ash Wednesday Examen Δ

As I Do to the Least...

“Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

—Matthew 25:40

Begin by asking God to guide your mind and heart as you do an honest search of your day.

1. Spend a few moments in gratitude, thanking God for one or two of the blessings, big and small that you’ve received today.

2. Ask God the following: “Of the people I encountered today, who was the most outcast? The weakest and most fragile? The most difficult for me to be around? In your imagination, replay the moment when you encountered that person.

3. Next, speak to God about your observations. Tell God your thoughts, words, and actions toward that person. Ask God for forgiveness for any thoughts, words, or actions that were unkind or uncharitable. Thank God for the moments when you seemed to have the right disposition.

4. Ask God, “What do you see when you see this person? What do you have to say to me about this person?”

Ash Wednesday Examen Continued.

5. Ask God, “What am I called to do for this person? Who am I called to *be* for this person?”

6. Now ask God something more concrete and specific: “God, what, if anything, am I called to do or be for this person tomorrow (or the next time I see them or someone who reminds me of them)? Ask God to give you the ability to do these things.

7. If you feel called to do so, make some sort of resolution.

Notes:

◇ Prayer Response by Ted Loder, *Guerrillas of Grace: Prayers for the Battle*, “Catch Me in My Scuffling,” (p. 123-125).

△ Examen Prayer by Mark E. Thibodeaux, SJ, *Reimagining the IGNATIAN EXAMEN*, “EXAMEN 21, As I Do to the Least...,” (p. 50-51).

Lenten & Easter Worship Schedule:

February 18 | First Sunday of Lent

Preaching: Pastor David Gray | Matthew 1 | Chancel Players | Bradley Ringers

After Worship: New Member Class

February 25 | Second Sunday of Lent

Preaching: Pastor David Gray | Matthew 2

After Worship: Lenten Day of Service: Disaster Kits, Hygiene Kits, & School Supply Kits

March 3 | Third Sunday of Lent

Preaching: Pastor David Gray | Matthew 3 | **Communion**

After Worship: Youth Led Pancake Lunch

March 10 | Fourth Sunday of Lent

Preaching: Pastor David Gray | Matthew 4

After Worship: New Member Class

March 17 | Fifth Sunday of Lent

Preaching: Pastor David Gray | Matthew 5 | Chancel Players | New Members Join

March 24 | Palm Sunday

Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab

March 28 | Maundy Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab

March 29 | Good Friday at 12:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

12pm: Reading of the Last Words of Christ | In-Person

7:30pm: Chancel Choir Leading Worship | Special Music | In-Person & Online

March 31 | Easter Sunday at 9:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

Preaching: Pastor David Gray | Chancel Choir & Brass Ensemble | Preludes at 9 & 11

Join Us for the Easter Egg Hunt Between Services!