



Ash Wednesday – 1, 6, & 7:15pm

Gathering

P: The Peace of Christ be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

Prayer of the Day

P: Blessed are you, O God, holy and immortal, for you remember how we are made-- as frail as dust, as fleeting as breath. By your tender compassion, your Word became flesh and dwelt among us that the world might know your love. Be present with us now, we pray. Turn our hearts toward you and in love toward one another, for you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and rich in love, through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

Cong: *Amen*

Word

P: Five hundred years before Christ, Ezekiel spoke to the people of Israel about the promises of God. A reading from Ezekiel. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, says our God, and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness, and from your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you. (Ezekiel 36:25-27a)

P: Give us, Lord, a new heart

C: *Give us, Lord, a new heart.*

A reading from C.S. Lewis

To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in a casket of your selfishness. But in that casket –safe, dark, motionless, airless –it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable.

P: Give us, Lord, a new heart

C: *Give us, Lord, a new heart.*

P: Let us pray,

C: *God of mercy, you know us better than we know ourselves, and still you love us. Wash us from all our sins, create in us clean hearts, and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit that we may proclaim your praise; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

Gospel Acclamation

*Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord, let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord,
Save us as you promised we will trust your Word; Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord,*

Gospel | Luke 9:51-62

⁵¹ When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³ but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ Then they went on to another village. ⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹ To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰ But Jesus^[G] said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹ Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let

me first say farewell to those at my home.”⁶² Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Sermon: Pastor Joanna Mitchell and Pastor Maria Markman

Response Song - *Canticle of the Turning*

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the one who waits.
You fixed your sight on the servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?*

*Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, For the dawn draws near, And the world is about to turn.*

*Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me.
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)*

*From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
These are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)*

Paraphrase of Luke 1:46-58 (Magnificat) Words © 1990 Rory Cooney Music: STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN (Irish Traditional Folk Song)

Prayers of the Church/Lord's Prayer

Imposition of ashes

Benediction

Sending Song - *Will You Come and Follow Me?*

*Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?*

*Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?*

*Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.*

