



*Ash*  
WEDNESDAY

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**  
**Bethel Presbyterian Church**  
**February 17, 2020**

Welcome

Prelude

Call to Worship (*L = Leader, A=All*)

L: As we enter into this sacred place,  
put away the pressures of the world that ask us to perform,  
to take up masks, to put on brave fronts.

Silence the voices that ask you to be perfect.

This is a community of compassion and welcoming.

A: **We bring all that we are and all that we yet can be,  
to this safe and ordinary place.**

Hymn

**“BE THOU MY VISION”**

Irish Ballad

*Be Thou my vi-sion, O Lord of my heart;  
Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art –  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Wak-ing or sleep-ing, Thy pres-ence my light.*

*Rich-es I heed not, nor vain, emp-ty praise,  
Thou mine in-her-i-tance, now and al-ways:  
Thou and Thou on-ly, first in my heart,  
Great God of heav-en, my trea-sure Thou art.*

*Be Thou my wis-dom, and Thou my true word;  
I ev-er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Heat of my own heart, what-ev-er be be-fall,  
Still be my vi-sion, O Rul-er of all.*

Prayer

O Source of life and love,  
torn by desires to sit back and to enjoy the beauty of the world –  
to savor the blue skies and gentle days –  
and by desires to recast the world and to fight its evils –  
to save the world...

Torn by all those things that hurt and confuse  
and make no sense amid beauty –  
yet supported by all those things that heal and hold us –  
smiles, kisses, mountain vistas  
and gentle waves, warm words...

We live in mystery.

We live torn apart at times:  
so much glory, so much pain.

We live in faith:  
faith in ourselves and each other,  
faith that we can create bonds of the spirit  
that proclaim we are not alone.

We have much health within us;  
we can live through the heartache to new life.

So, for the grace of the world and all the tumble, too,  
this day we give thanks...

### *Silence*

We lay down what is past...

**All: We lay down what is past and look to the future....  
We take into our daily life signs of hope and healing....  
We reach beyond ourselves to share the lives of others  
and touch a wider world.**

Sung Response

**“KYRIE ELEISON”**

GHANIAN KYRIE

(LORD, HAVE MERCY)

*Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son. Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son.*

*Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son. Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son.*

Source of All Life, as we lay down what is past,  
we experience your forgiveness.

As we pick up signs of hope and healing,  
we pray that your Spirit will encourage us, nurture us  
and nudge us through this journey of Lent  
that we may indeed serve you faithfully in the world. Amen.

Special Music

Levi Parish



These are ashes worth wearing.

May we accept this gift. And be blessed.

And be assured we will be different at the end of this season.

For from the burnt ashes will spring the green shoot of life  
and the purple flower of attentiveness to God.

Prayer

O God, may these ashes be blessed.

May they be for us a symbol of our return to the earth.

And may we be blessed.

May we be earthed in your everlasting love,  
as forgiven and forgiving people. Amen.

Imposition of the Ashes or Oil and Sign of the Cross

Prayer

God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ  
you reconciled your people to yourself.

Following his example of prayer and fasting,  
may we obey you with willing hearts  
and serve one another in holy love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymn

**“RESTORE IN US, O GOD”**

BAYLOR

*Re-store in us, O God,  
the spleen-dor of your love;  
re-new your im-age in our hearts,  
and all our sins re-move.*

*O Spir-it, wake in us  
the won-der of your power;  
from fruit-less fear un-furl our lives  
like spring-time bud and flower.*

*Bring us, O Christ, to share  
the full-ness of your joy;  
bap-tize us in the ris-en life  
that death can-not de-stroy.*

*Three-per-soned God, ful-fill  
the prom-ise of your grace,  
that we, when our search-ing ends,  
may see you face to face.*

Benediction

Go forth in Christ's name, to transform existence,  
to bring consolation to the desperate, hope to the hungry  
and homeless, reconciliation to a community and world divided.

And in Christ's name,  
find a cause you can live for, a self you can live with,  
and a Redeemer for whom you can die.

Minister: The Rev. Dr. Wendy Neff

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“Be Thou My Vision”

Ancient Irish Poem

Trans. Mary E Byrne, 1905.

Vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912; alt.

Music: Irish Ballad

Harm. David Evans, 1927

“Lord, Have Mercy”

Text: Trad. Liturgical text

Music: Dinah Reindorf, 1987;

Arr. Sing! A New Creation, 2001

Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf

Music Arr. © Faith Alive Christian Resources

“Live in Charity”

Text: Latin, 8<sup>th</sup> cent.; English trans. Taize Community, 1991

Music: Jacques Bethier, 1979

Text and Music © 1979 Les Presses de Taize  
(admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

“Restore in Us, O God”

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., 1987

Music: Hal H. Hopson, 1985

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

Music © 1985 Hope Publishing Company

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