

First Christian Church
Disciples of Christ

Ash Wednesday Service
February 21, 2007

Prelude “Come, Christians, Join to Sing” arr. Sanborn

Call to Worship

Pastor: Call a solemn assembly; gather the people.
Let all inhabitants of the land tremble before God.

**People: God knows all the secrets of our hearts
and is aware of all our ways.**

Pastor: The day of God is coming; it is near, a day of clouds
and shadows and gloom.

**People: God’s judgments are blameless and sure,
and God’s grace is sufficient for all our needs.**

Pastor: Rend your hearts and not your garments;
come to God with fasting, weeping, and mourning.

**People: We will worship God in purity and genuine love,
seeking to be faithful to the best we know.**

*Hymn “O for a Thousand tongues to Sing” 5

*The Prayer of Invocation Unison
Meet us, O God, in the special observances of this
Lenten season. Discipline us, and put a new and
right spirit within us. Bless our corporate worship
and our private devotions, that this may be a time of
self-examination and growth. Amen.

The Call to Confession

The Prayer of Confession Unison
Merciful God, we cannot escape from our
transgressions. We have sinned against you and have
done what is evil in your sight. We have tried to
cover up our wrongdoing and have exaggerated our

role in accomplishing good things. We seek to lay
treasures on earth, while neglecting permanent
values and selfless commitment to causes greater
than ourselves. Forgive us, we pray, and set us on a
new course. Amen.

Time of Prayer and 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.*

Hymn “Come, Christians, Join to Sing” 90

Scripture Reading Joel 2:12-17

Sermon “Rend Your Hearts” Pastor Basye

Our Worship Through Giving

Offering “Sheep May Safely Graze” arr. Smith

*Doxology 46

*Hymn “Crown Him with Many Crowns” 234(v.1,2,4)

Instructions for Communion and Imposition of Ashes

Service of Communion and Ashes

Quiet Time of Reflection

*(Please leave the sanctuary quietly, thoughtfully
when you are ready.)*

Postlude “Bless Be The Tie That Binds” arr. Smith

(*Congregation will please stand if able)

The Lenten Journey

There is a line toward the end of T.S. Eliot's poem, "Ash Wednesday," that says "This is the time of tension between dying and birth, the place of solitude where three dreams cross."

In the infant years of the church, there was a long period of preparation that led up to one's baptism. It was a time observed through fasting, solitude, prayers and reflection. The one who was about to be baptized, then, was living between dying and birth, between an end to the old self and a rebirth to new life as a child of God.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. We will move through Lent being "Cross-examined," arriving at Holy Week prepared for the Passion of our Lord.

In Lent, as each of us lives between the tension of dying and birth, we are led by Christ into new possibilities for ourselves, our families and our church. Indeed, it was Martin Luther who suggested that repentance was a continual crawling back to the font, the baptismal womb-of-our-faith. Our Lenten journey can be an occasion for renewal focused on our baptismal remembrance and centered upon Christ's death and resurrection. It can be a time when our lives are changed and our Lord and his church are placed in proper relationship to one's total life.



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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Our Mission

We are an open and welcoming community that God calls and the Holy Spirit empowers to:

- share the Good News of Jesus Christ with all ages*
- explore and express a growing faith*
- equip believers for ministries which expand the kingdom of God*