



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

February 22, 2023

7:00pm

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
231 Sunset Ave.
Sunnyvale, CA 94086
408-736-4155 www.stthomas-svale.org

ASH WEDNESDAY



Welcome to ZOOM worship at St. Thomas.

Please connect to our worship meeting using Zoom.

There are two ways to do this.

1. by computer or smartphone (video and audio):

You may access our ZOOM meeting on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88974202871>

2. by telephone (audio only):

Dial +1 669 900 9128 Meeting ID: 889 7420 2871

When prompted for a participant number, touch the pound key #

One tap mobile +16699009128,,88974202871#

Actual connection time may take several minutes; please be patient.

Once you are connected, your face (or phone number) should appear in a square on your screen, as will the faces of others who have signed in, including Pastor Salying.

Note: For the sake of audio clarity, your mic will be muted on entry.

Please follow along when the order of service appears on the screen.

When all are ready, the officiant will begin

Prelude

trad. Appalachian, arr Carson Cooman

[What Wondrous Love](#)

SJMP #20852

Opening Acclamation

Enriching Our Worship

Officiant: Blessed be the God of our salvation:

People: Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

Officiant: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Lector: A reading from the book of Joel

Blow the trumpet in Zion;

 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,

 for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near--

a day of darkness and gloom,

 a day of clouds and thick darkness!

Like blackness spread upon the mountains

 a great and powerful army comes;

their like has never been from of old,

 nor will be again after them

 in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the Lord,

 return to me with all your heart,

with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

 rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.
Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the Lord, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged;
gather the children,
even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.
Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'"

Lector: Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 103:8-14

The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.

As a father cares for his children, *
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

For he himself knows whereof we are made; *
he remembers that we are but dust.

Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Lector: A reading from the second letter to the Corinthians

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see-- we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Lector: Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Lector: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

The Homily

Anthem

Vincent Cole

Create in Me

Members of the St. Thomas Choir
Michele Elizabeth Kemmerling, piano

Invitation to a Holy Lent

Officiant: Dear People of God:

The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

blessing the ashes

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Imposition of Ashes

Officiant: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Psalm 51:1-13

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.

And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment.

Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.

For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.

Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Litany of Penitence

Officiant and People:

**Most holy and merciful Father:
We confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints
in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault
in thought, word, and deed;
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

Officiant: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

People: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Leader: We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

People: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Leader: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Leader: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Leader: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Leader: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Leader: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Leader: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

People: **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Leader: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

People: **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Leader: For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

People: **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Leader: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

People: **Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Leader: Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

People: **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

Leader: By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

People: **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Officiant: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and

remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Peace

Officiant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The people and the ministers greet one another.

The Blessing

Book of Occasional Services

Officiant: Bow down before the Lord.

Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Closing music

Josquin des Prez

[The Glory of These Forty Days](#)

JCMP lic. #20852

*The glory of these forty days,
We celebrate with songs of praise;
For Christ, by Whom all things were made,
Himself has fasted and has prayed.*

*So grant us, Lord, to willing be
Full oft in fast and prayer with Thee;*

*Our spirits strengthen with Thy grace,
And give us joy to see Thy face.*

*O Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
To thee be ev'ry prayer addressed
Who art in threefold Name adored,
From age to age, the only Lord.*

The Dismissal

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



Serving this evening

Officiant: The Rev Salying Wong

Deacon: The Rev. Bertram Nagarajah

Intercessor/Responder: Jim Cobb

Lectors: Patricia Pietrzyk, Fulvia Govetto

BLESSING THE DUST

All those days
you felt like dust,
like dirt,
as if all you had to do
was turn your face
toward the wind
and be scattered
to the four corners

or swept away
by the smallest breath
as insubstantial—

did you not know
what the Holy One
can do with dust?

This is the day
we freely say
we are scorched.

This is the hour
we are marked
by what has made it
through the burning.

This is the moment
we ask for the blessing
that lives within
the ancient ashes,
that makes its home
inside the soil of
this sacred earth.

So let us be marked
not for sorrow.
And let us be marked
not for shame.
Let us be marked
not for false humility
or for thinking
we are less
than we are
but for claiming
what God can do
within the dust,
within the dirt,
within the stuff
of which the world
is made
and the stars that blaze
in our bones
and the galaxies that spiral
inside the smudge
we bear.

—Jan Richardson
from *Circle of Grace: A Book of
Blessings for the Seasons*





Parish Mission Statement

St. Thomas is joyfully on the way!

We are becoming whom Jesus calls us to be: a spiritually-centered community dedicated to creating connections with God, each other, and our neighbors, so that we might walk together with love toward justice, compassion, and hope.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Welcome

St. Thomas' Parish is a reconciling, affirming, and inclusive Christian community striving through worship, love, and service to welcome all people just as God created them. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, and whether you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered, our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender identity and gender expression, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical, or mental ability. God delights in the diversity of creation, and so do we!

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