



Welcome to St. John's Christian Church

"The Church on the Corner Whose Cornerstone is Christ"

Come **H**ear the **R**eason we're **I**nspired to **S**erve **T**ogether



Ash Wednesday Service † February 17, 2021

*We are a community of faith founded upon God's Holy Word,
preaching salvation through believing in Christ as our Savior.*

We seek to live in God's truth, being obedient to His Word and following in His ways.

February 17, 2021

7:00PM

**Ash Wednesday Service of Worship
Sacrament of Communion**

Ringling of the Tower Bells

Welcome and Invitation

Prelude

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

Reading of Psalm 51

Psalm 51:1-9 – Seeking the Mercy of God

Hymn of Response – #68 “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

Psalm 51:10-12 – Seeking Restoration from God

Hymn of Response – #440 “O for a Heart to Praise My God”

Psalm 51:13-17 – Seeking to Praise the Lord

Hymn of Response – #267 “Come, Thou Almighty King”

Ministry of Prayer

Invitation to Prayer

Prayer of Adoration

Verse of Adoration – #345, verse 1, “Blessed Assurance”

Prayer of Confession

Verse of Confession – #340, verse 1, “I Lay My Sins on Jesus”

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Verse of Thanksgiving – #339, verse 1, “Since I Have Been Redeemed”

Prayer of Supplication

Verse of Supplication – #358, verse 1, “I Am Thine, O Lord”

The Lord’s Prayer (debts/debtors)

An Ash Wednesday Children’s Message

“More than Cards, Candy and Flowers”

Scripture Reading

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Special Music

Jocelyn Walker

“Clean”

Sermon

“Being Washed and Cleansed”

Sacrament of Holy Communion

†Closing Hymn

#350, “Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”

†Benediction

†Postlude

Communion

We observe open communion here at St. John's, so we invite to the Lord's Table all older youth and adults who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Single-serve gluten-free communion element sets are available on a table in the narthex.

The Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the season of Lent, the 40 days (not counting Sundays) that precedes Easter. The date of Easter falls on the Sunday after the full moon after the vernal equinox, a time determined by the Council of Nicaea in AD 325. This year, Easter falls on April 4th.

"Lent" is from the Anglo-Saxon word for "lengthen," as in the lengthening days of spring. This season of 40 days has been celebrated by Christians at least since the early 2nd century. In the Christian Scriptures the number 40 relates to the period spent by Noah in the Ark, the period spent by Israel seeking the Promised Land after the Exodus, and the amount of time Jesus was in the wilderness after his baptism and prior to beginning his public ministry.

For us, the Season of Lent is when the passion and death of our Savior come into focus. It's observed as a time for growth in faith, as well as a time for deepening the devotional life of faithful Christians. It's an invitation to 40 days of renewal and 40 days to prepare ourselves to take in the Good News of Easter through the disciplines of prayer, self-denial, and rededication.

Ash Wednesday represents our sorrow for our sins, our repentance, and our morality. Receiving the sacrament tonight reminds us that God's love is triumphant over sin and death, that He remains "in communion" with us, and that through Christ's redemptive act on the cross, our mortality is overcome.

Wednesday Evening Lenten Worship Services - 7:00pm

On the Wednesday evenings from February 24th through March 24th, while Logos, JYF, SYF, Life Planning and Men's Ministry are being held, Lenten worship services will be held in the Sanctuary and on YouTube Live at 7:00pm.

These services will consist of prayer, singing and an interactive teaching lesson. We'll be considering the biblical characters of Pilate, Simon Peter, Caiaphas, Simon of Cyrene and the Penitent Thief of the Cross.

Accompanist - Lynne Christman
Song Leaders - David Stuckey, Roger Zimmerman
Sound Tech - James Grime
Easy Worship Tech - Kelly Ducey
Live Stream Tech - Ryan Christman
Head Usher - Dave Walker

Scripture Readings

Psalm 51 When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. ² Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. ⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. ⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. ⁶ Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. ⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. ⁹ Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. ¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you. ¹⁴ Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. ¹⁶ You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Matthew 6:1-6 "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. ² "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁵ "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the

truth, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Matthew 6:16-21 "When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. **2 Corinthians 6:1** As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ² For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. ³ We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. ⁴ Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; ⁵ in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; ⁶ in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; ⁷ in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; ⁸ through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; ⁹ known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.