



BROADWAY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

7:00 p.m.

March 9, 2011

Ash Wednesday 2011

Dignity/Chicago and Woman & WordWorks
with **Broadway United Methodist Church**

Welcome gathering in Friendship Hall, 6:30 pm

*A special Thank You! for providing hospitality this Ash Wednesday:
MJ Grimshaw (Broadway) and Mike Hogan & Chris Pett (Dignity)*

Words of Centering

As a deer gets thirsty for streams of water, I truly am thirsty for you, my God.

In my heart, I am thirsty for you, the living God.

~ Psalm 42

GATHERING THE COMMUNITY

The Music of Gathering

[Jenn Peterson, piano]

The Welcoming of Our Two Congregations

***The Call to Worship**

*Loving God, we come to you for truth,
that we might see clearly and that we might understand.*

**We come to you for comfort,
that we might be sustained and
that we might be understood.**

*We come to you for challenge,
that we might be reminded that
our ways are not your ways and that we can change.*

We come to you, Holy One. We come to you.

***The Opening Hymn**

Lord, I Want to be a Christian

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* Those who are able, please stand.

(**Bold type** within liturgy indicates congregational response)

HEARING THE WORD

God's Story in Scripture

The Old Testament Lesson

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Blow the shofar in Zion! Sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the people of the land tremble! For the Day of YHWH is coming — it is near — a day of darkness and gloom, a day of fog and dense clouds. A vast and countless horde appears like soot spread over the hills; it is like something never known before, nor will be seen in ages to come.

“But know this,” says YHWH: “Return to me with all your heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Tear open your heart, not your clothes!” Return to YHWH your God, who is gracious and deeply loving as a mother, quick to forgive, abundantly tender-hearted — and relents from inflicting disaster. Who knows? God may come back, relent, and leave a blessing behind — grain and drink offerings for YHWH your God. Sound the shofar in Zion! Order a fast! Proclaim a solemn assembly! Gather the people! Purify the community! Assemble the elders! Gather the children — even infants at the breast! Let the bridegroom leave his bedroom and the bride her canopied bed! Let the priests, the ministers of YHWH, stand weeping between the portico and the altar and say, “Spare your people, YHWH! Don’t let your heritage become an object of ridicule, a byword for the Nations! Don’t let the peoples say, ‘Where is their God?’”

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Reflection

Rev. Vernice Thorn

Sung Response

“O God, You Are My God” (sing twice)

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the song "O God, You Are My God". The first staff is in treble clef, 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The melody starts on a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. There is a fermata over the C5 note. The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes D5, E5, and F5, followed by a half note G5. The lyrics "O God, you are my God; my soul thirsts for you." are written below the notes. The second staff is also in treble clef, 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, Bb4, and C5. There is a fermata over the C5 note. The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes D5, E5, and F5, followed by a half note G5. The lyrics "As in a dry and wea-ry land, you are wa - ter to my soul." are written below the notes.

God's Story in Scripture

The Psalm

Psalm 51:1-17

[NRSV] Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

May God bless the speaking and hearing of the Word.

Amen.

Reflection

Rev. Lois McCullen Parr

Sung Response

"O God, You Are My God" (sing twice)

O God, you are my God; my soul thirsts for you.

The first line of musical notation is on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). It contains two measures. The first measure has a chord symbol 'F' above it and contains the notes G4, A4, Bb4, and C5. The second measure has a chord symbol 'Bb' above it and contains the notes Bb4, A4, G4, and F4. The lyrics 'O God, you are my God; my soul thirsts for you.' are written below the notes.

As in a dry and wea-ry land, you are wa - ter to my soul.

The second line of musical notation is on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). It contains two measures. The first measure has the notes G4, A4, Bb4, and C5. The second measure has the notes Bb4, A4, G4, and F4. The lyrics 'As in a dry and wea-ry land, you are wa - ter to my soul.' are written below the notes.

God's Story in Scripture

*The Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

[Jesus said:] "Beware of practicing your piety before others to attract their attention; if you do this, you will have no reward from your Abba God in heaven. When you do acts of charity, for example, don't have it trumpeted before you; that is what hypocrites do in the synagogues and the streets, that they may be praised by others. The truth is, they've already received their reward in full. But when you do acts of charity, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing; your good deeds must be done in secret, and your Abba God — who sees all that is done in secret — will repay you. And when you pray, don't behave like the hypocrites; they love to pray standing up in the synagogues and on street corners for people to see them. The truth is, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go to your room, shut the door, and pray to God who is in that secret place, and your Abba God — who sees all that is done in secret — will reward you.

And when you fast, don't look depressed like the hypocrites. They deliberately neglect their appearance to let everyone know that they are fasting. The truth is, they have already received their reward. But when you fast, brush your hair and wash your face. Don't let anyone know you're fasting except your Abba God, who sees all that is done in secret. And Abba God — who sees everything that is done in secret — will reward you. Don't store up earthly treasures for yourselves, which moths and rust destroy and thieves can break in and steal. But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where neither moth nor rust can destroy them and thieves cannot break in and steal them. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be as well."

Here ends the reading of the Gospel. This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Reflection

Rev. Barbara Zeman

Sung Response

"O God, You Are My God" (sing twice)

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, with lyrics "O God, you are my God; my soul thirsts for you." The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics "As in a dry and wea-ry land, you are wa - ter to my soul." The notes are simple, using quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

O God, you are my God; my soul thirsts for you.

As in a dry and wea-ry land, you are wa - ter to my soul.

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

The Invitation to a Holy Lent

Dear friends in Christ:

Lent, observed by Christians for centuries,

is a forty-day season of spiritual preparation before the Easter celebration.

I invite you to observe a holy Lent:

by self-examination and repentance,

by prayer, fasting and self-denial;

and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

To make a right beginning of repentance,

let us confess what we are:

The Confession

We confess to you, Holy God, what we are.

We are not the people we like others to think we are.

We are afraid to admit, even to ourselves,

what lies in the depths of our souls.

We are not the people you created us to be.

We are afraid to recognize and live into

the gifts you have given us

But we cannot hide our true selves from you.

You know us as we are, and you love us.

Help us not to shrink from self-knowledge.

Teach us to respect ourselves for your sake.

Give us the courage to put our trust in your guiding power.

Raise us out of the paralysis of guilt

into the freedom and energy of forgiven people.

And for those who through long habit find forgiveness hard to accept,

we ask you to break their bondage and set them free;

through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

The Silent Prayers

*To all of our prayers let the people say,
Amen.*

The Assurance of Forgiveness

*Through God's grace we are forgiven,
by the mercy of our Creator,
through the love of the Christ,
and in the power of the Spirit.*

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Sharing the Peace**

Thanksgiving Over the Ashes

Imposition of Ashes



***The Closing Hymn**

Since Jesus Came Into My Heart

FS 2140
vs. 1-3

***Benediction**

As we wear the mark of the cross, may we be mindful of the ways in which the cross has already marked our lives.

May we find, through this Lenten season, the ways in which God is calling us to share with the world the love and forgiveness which we have already come to know.

As we go to wash this mark of grit and ash from our own bodies may we be mindful of the one whose love washes over us.

Postlude

[Jenn Peterson, piano]

BROADWAY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BROADWAY'S MISSION STATEMENT

"God calls Broadway United Methodist Church to be a faith community embracing the diversity of our Chicago neighborhood and larger community. We welcome all persons – celebrating the human family's God-given diversity of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, and physical or mental capacity. We also welcome persons of all social and economic classes and faith backgrounds. At Broadway, we are accepted into God's nurturing family, which invites us into spiritual growth through worship, study, mission, and social action. We are grateful for the opportunities God gives us to experience and share the love of Christ."



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Dignity/Chicago and **Wisdom & Word Works**, two organizations grounded in the Catholic tradition, will partner to present a program for Lent focused on a fresh approach to preparing for Easter. The program, **Re-imagining Lent for all God's People**, will feature a series of reflections by Reverend Jacki Belile of Living Well Ministries, along with Dignity/Chicago's customary soup suppers on each of the five Sunday's of Lent. To participate send e-mail to dignitychicago@gmail.com, or call 312-458-9438.

BUMC's Lenten program, "Water For Our Souls" includes Sunday morning worship at 8:45 & 11 am, Sunday spiritual formation at 10am, Wednesday evening guided meditation (6pm) and book study (7pm), among other small groups and studies. See Broadway's website or call the church office for more information.

SERVICE ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Call to Worship and **Benediction** adapted from Tirabassi, Maren C. Tirabassi & Maria L., ed. *Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship*. Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2007.

Other Liturgy written by Carol McPherson.

"O God, You Are My God" composed by David Gambrell. Used by permission.

Scripture from *The Inclusive Bible*. Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2009 (except Psalm: NRSV)