



*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.*

Joel 2: 12-13a

A Service to Begin the Lenten Season

March 6, 2019

*“You are dust, and to dust you shall return.”*

Prelude *“Adagio for Strings”*

Samuel Barber

\*Call to Worship

Leader: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**People: His mercy endures forever.**

Leader: Hear the commandments of God to God’s people: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

**People: Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Leader: You shall not make for yourself any idol.

**People: Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Leader: You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

**People: Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Leader: Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

**People: Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Leader: Honor your father and your mother.

**People: Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Leader: You shall not commit murder.

**People: Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Leader: You shall not commit adultery.

**People: Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Leader: You shall not steal.

**People: Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Leader: You shall not be a false witness.

**People: Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Leader: You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

**People: Amen. Lord have mercy.**

\*Opening Hymn *“ Savior, When In Tears and Dust”*

# 185

Prayer (Offered by All)

**Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect forgiveness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Statement of Purpose

Reading of Scripture

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; II Corinthians 5: 20b-6:10; Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

Hymn of Reflection “Give Me a Clean Heart” #188

Sermon “The Three R’s” Rev. Guy S. Johnson

Prayer Over the Ashes

Imposition of Ashes

Prayer of Confession (Psalm 51)

Reader 1: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Reader 2: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Reader 1: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Reader 2: 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.

**People: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and pure a new and right  
spirit within me. Restore me to the joy of your salvation and  
uphold me with a willing spirit.**

Reader 1: Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

Reader 2: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in  
my secret heart.

Reader 1: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be  
whiter than snow.

Reader 2: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed  
rejoice.

**People: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and pure a new and right  
spirit within me. Restore me to the joy of your salvation and  
uphold me with a willing spirit.**

Reader 1: Hide your face from my sins,

Reader 2: and blot out all my iniquities.

**People: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and pure a new and right  
spirit within me. Restore me to the joy of your salvation and  
uphold me with a willing spirit.**

Reader 1: 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.

Reader 2: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

Reader 1: For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

Reader 2: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Readers 1 & 2:

Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then you will delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

**People: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and pure a new and right spirit within me. Restore me to the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

Assurance of Pardon

The almighty and merciful God, source of our salvation in Christ, who does not desire the death of a sinner but rather that we turn from wickedness and live; accept your repentance, forgive your sins, and restore you by the Holy Spirit to newness of life. **Amen.**

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.*

*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,*

*For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

Recessional Hymn "*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*"

#190

\* Benediction