

Leading Worship This Evening

Rev. Richard Blood, Pioneer Parish
Rev. Brett M. Foote, United Presbyterian Church

Joyful Noise, Pioneer Parish Choir

Chancel Choir, United Presbyterian Church,
Under direction of Jane Wester

Musician, Alex Sandor, United Presbyterian Church

Leslie Anderson, Pioneer Parish

Christy Willmore, United Presbyterian Church



Joint Congregational Service

**United Presbyterian Church
& Pioneer Parish**

Ash Wednesday Service

February 26, 2020

7:00 p.m.

* Please rise in body or spirit

PRELUDE
WELCOME

Alex Sandor
Rev. Rich Blood

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Adapted from Joel 2:1, 12-16)

One: Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a feast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people.

All: Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged and the young, men and women, all who rejoice and all who grieve.

One: "Even now," says the Holy One, "return to me with weeping and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your garments."

All: We will return to the Holy One, our God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

***HYMN** *Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days #166*

READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 51:1-17
Christy Willmore

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

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

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

All: 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.

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING

MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

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.

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God. 'Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?' Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

All: You desire truth in the inward being, therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

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

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

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

All: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

One: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

All: Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit.

One: Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

All: Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

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

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

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

RESPONSE

Create in Me a Clean Heart

#422

(you may remain seated)

A TIME FOR SILENCE, CONFESSION AND PERSONAL REFLECTION

(You are invited to take this time for your own reflection—what hinders your relationship with God? What obstacles keep you from being the person God calls you to be? What are those things you could fast from or take on in this season that would fundamentally change you or your neighbor’s physical and spiritual life?)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But when we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Witness and believe the good news of the gospel: Because of Christ’s birth, life, death and resurrection...

All: We are all forgiven, Amen.

ANTHEM

Give Me Jesus
United Presbyterian Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Christy Willmore

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 58:1-12

HOMILY

“Lent: Not Just Giving Something Up”
Rev. Brett M. Foote

New Testament Reading *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

***HYMN**

Bless The Lord

#544

(X5 Continued as the imposition of ashes takes place.)

***IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

(You are invited to come forward by the center aisle to receive ashes. If you have one, please bring your offering forward as well. There is no obligation to give. Tonight’s combined offering will go to a local mission in Superior. Return to your seat by the side aisle.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leslie Anderson

(Please respond to each petition with the words, “Holy God, hear our prayer.”)

THE LORD’S PRAYER (in unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.**

ANTHEM

Blest Are They (David Haas)
Joyful Noise/Pioneer Parish Choir

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Children are welcome to use the nursery or the area in the back of the sanctuary during worship. Your assistance in cleaning up and putting away toys and activities is greatly appreciated.