

March 2, 2022 | ASH WEDNESDAY





Welcome!

Services at 6:30 • See gilbertumc.org for streaming information

Hearing-Assistive Devices, Large-Print Bulletins, Bibles and Hymnals are available from Usher

* Please stand as you are able

Pre-service Music: "We Love You and Praise You" | "Cleansing Fountain" Harlan Rogers, publ. by Maranatha! Music arr. by Robert J. Hughes | arr. by Loni Smith, publ. by Lorenz

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome and Greeting Pastor Rick Casebolt and The Rev. Erika von Haaren

Introit—Bringing in the Light of Christ

Prelude "Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone"

arranged by Robert J. Hughes, published Lorenz

*Call to Worship

Pastor Diamond Pate

Leader: "Even now, declares the Lord, return to me

with all your heart." (Joel 2:12)

People: Roll up your sleeves.
Leader: Let down your guard.
People: Come in from the storm.
Leader: Make yourself at home.
People: Pull up to the table.

Leader: Release the tension in your jaw. Take a deep breath.

Return to God with all your heart.

All: May it be so.

*Opening Hymn "Take Time To Be Holy" vs. 1, 4 UMH #395
UM Hymnal #395 WORDS: George C. Stebbins

*Opening Prayer

O Lord our God, as we your people come before you in adoration, open our lips that our mouths might declare your praise. You are the God of our salvation, and our tongues will sing aloud of your deliverance, that your mercy may be known to the ends of the earth.

You have called us to share what we have received at your hand. But instead of doing your works of mercy in private, we take delight in being praised by others. How much we enjoy having others see our great piety! But you, O God, have called for a true sacrifice of the heart. It seems so much easier to look holy than it is to be righteous in your sight. Create clean hearts in us, O God, and renew right spirits within us.

By the power of your holy Spirit enable us to be truly sorry for our sins. Help us to repent of our ways and to seek only your face. Make our time of fasting a true renewal of our faith; take our alms and transform them into acts of compassion.

In this time we recall your Son's passion; we remember his suffering and death for our sakes. Receive into your care this day others of your children who are suffering and dying. Give relief to those who hurt; give calm to those whose minds are troubled; give peace to those who are dying and have mercy on us all.

O God, hear our prayers and answer them as you know is best for us, for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anthem "Create in Me A Clean Heart, O God" The Chancel Choir by Carl Mueller

Scripture Reading Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

*Reading of the Gospel Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 The Rev. Craig Smith

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

Call to the Observance of a Holy Lent

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, I confess: I don't return to you fully. I share with you the pieces of my life that are convenient. I put on different hats in different rooms. I forget that I am called, invited, and loved with all that I am—including my mess, my beauty, my faith, and my doubt. Forgive me, and give me a heart that longs to return.

Absolution

Prayer of Thanksgiving over 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, so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Imposition of the Ashes

*Closing Hymn "Just as I Am, Without One Plea" vs. 1, 3, 5 #357

UM Hymnal #357 WORDS: Charlotte Elliott MUSIC: William B. Bradley

*Benediction and Recession

Postlude

"The Peace of God"

by David Paxton; published by Lorenz

Thank you for joining our service this evening!

Pastor Rick Casebolt
Pastor Diamond Pate

RESURRECTION EPISCOPAL CHURCH THE REV. ERIKA VON HAAREN THE REV. CRAIG SMITH, OB

PIANO AND ORGAN: Sylvia Moore