

Ash Wednesday

Worship at 7:30^{PM}

February 14, 2024

Woodridge Congregational Church and First Korean Church of Rhode Island
United Church of Christ

Gathering Music *Come and Find the Quiet Center* B. F. White

Invocation & the Lord's Prayer

Call to Worship:

One: As we begin our journey with Jesus, let us join together as a caring and welcoming community.

All: Let us respond to God's steadfast love which calls us into the blessed and beloved community.

One: Let all the people gathered seek reconciliation with God and with one another in the presence of a good and merciful God.

All: Let God's love and grace overcome our sins and let us with reverence and wonder gather in Jesus' name, trusting His promise to be among us.

Scripture reading: Matthew 6: 1 - 6; 16 - 21 (NRSV)

"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. ²"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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵"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.

⁶But 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. . . .

¹⁶“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. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Scripture reading: 2 Corinthians 5: 16 - 21 (NRSV)

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Hymn: *Be Thou My Vision* Pilgrim Hymnal #391

verse 1 in Korean, verse 2 in English verses 3 and 4 all gathered

Message

“The Cross of Ashes”

Rev. Tom Meyer

*A time of confession and repentance to receive ashes
and to celebrate communion*

Prayer of confession (*Unison*): **O God of life, we confess the ways we sometimes turn away from the fullness of the life that you offer us. God of love, we confess the hate we can hold in our hearts. God of compassion, we confess that we may be from time to time indifferent to the needs of others. God of justice, we confess the times we have not sought justice. God of peace, we confess the violence that can rise up in us. Holy and loving God, we confess our sins to you.**

Assurance of pardon

Hymn

Sign Us with Ashes

W. P. Rowan

Sing 3 times

Sign us with ash-es, mer-ci-ful God, chil-dren of dust as to dust we re-turn.

5 Sign us with ash-es, mer-ci-ful God. Mark us and make us your own. —

The ashes of God's love and grace

Hymn

Sign Us with Ashes

again, sing 3 times

Holy communion

Communion hymn

Eat This Bread

J. Berthier

Korean 2 times; English 2 times; All 2 times

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev-er be hun - gry.

5 Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

Invitation

Words of institution and consecration

Sharing of the elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*Unison*): **Thank you, O God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus, gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace that the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made your own. Give us the fruits of this holy communion: oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

Closing hymn

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

J. Berthier

Korean 2 times; English 2 times; All 2 times

The musical score is written on three staves in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 3/4 time signature. It contains the first four measures of the melody, with a repeat sign after the first measure. The lyrics are: "In the Lord I'll be ev-er thank-ful, in the Lord I will re-joice. Look to". The second staff starts at measure 5 and includes a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics are: "God, do not be a-fraid. Lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near, lift up your". The third staff starts at measure 9 and ends with a double bar line. The lyrics are: "voic - es the Lord is near. In the".

Benediction