
HEIDELBERG UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
251 PERKIOMEN AVENUE, SCHWENKSVILLE, PA 19473
ASH WEDNESDAY
IMPOSITION OF ASHES & HOLY COMMUNION
SERVICE CONDUCTED ON FACEBOOK LIVE & IN-PERSON WORSHIP
FEBRUARY 17, 2021

Tonight's Thought:

Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter: we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith. Come and begin this journey of Lent!

Centering Words:

As Christ's ambassadors to the world, let us be reconciled with God.

** = Stand in Body or Spirit*

GATHERING TOGETHER

Ringing the Bell

7:30pm

Welcome

Pastor Adrian

Prelude

"Jesus Grant That Balm and Healing"

Pat Clemens

Call to Worship

L: In the midst of darkness we have come.

P: Heal us, Lord Jesus.

L: Save us from the darkness of our souls.

P: Save us, Lord Jesus.

L: Let us follow you and obey your commands

P: Direct and guide us, Lord Jesus.

L: Brighten our lives and lift our spirits.

P: Bring us to your glorious presence, Lord Jesus.

Prayer of Invocation

Pastor Adrian

* Opening Hymn

"Here in This Place (Gather Us In)"

Here in this place, the new light is streaming, now the dark night has vanished away. See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in; our spirits in-flame. Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.

We are the young – our lives are a mystery; we are the old, who yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of history, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we receive new life in your waters; here we receive the bread of new birth; here we shall call your sons and your daughters, call us a-new to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not just in buildings, small and confining, not in some heaven, light years a-way, here in this place the new light is shining; now is God present, and now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

HEARING THE WORD

Prayer of Illumination Liturgist
Guide us, O God, by your Word, and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Scripture Lessons (NRSV) Liturgist

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* Gospel Lesson (NRSV) Pastor Adrian

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

* Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Sermon *"The Lenten Journey"* Rev. Adrian Tierson

Hymn "Savior, Hear the Prayer We Offer"

(Sung to hymn tune "Rathbun")

Savior, hear the prayer we offer: not for ease that prayer shall be, but for strength that we may ever live our lives courageously.

Not forever in green pastures do we ask our way to be, but the steep and rugged pathway may we tread rejoicingly.

Not forever by still waters would we idly rest and stay, but would smite the living fountains from the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness, in our wanderings be our guide; through endeavor, failure, danger, Savior, be thou at our side.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Call to Confession Pastor Adrian

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another ...

Prayer of Confession

L: Most holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

P: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great. Amen.

Words of Assurance

The Lord takes little pleasure in our earthly offerings, but delights in the sacrifice of our broken spirits. God will never turn away a wounded heart. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn Response

"Holy, Holy, Holy" (x3)

Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you! My heart knows how to say to you: you are holy, Lord!

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Invitation to the Observance of Lent

Pastor Adrian

Thanksgiving over the Ashes

Pastor Adrian

You are welcome to come forward (masked) to receive ashes on your forehead or back of your hand.

"Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Hymn

"Come to the Table"

Come to the table of mercy, prepared with the wine and the bread. All who are hungry and thirsty, come, and your souls will be fed. Come at the Lord's invitation; receive from his nail-scarred hand. Eat of the bread of salvation; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Preparing the Table

Pastor Adrian

Note to Guests: *Through the waters of baptism; we are born into Christ's family. That family is nourished and sustained at this table. Though we are baptized but once, in the Lord's Supper we reaffirm our commitment to Christ, and God renews us with grace. This is the joyful feast of the people of God! Our Savior invites everyone to share the feast, which he has prepared.*

Invitation

L: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I invite you to come to this communion table realizing that it shows to us the amazing grace of God. Come to this communion table knowing that the God of Holy Love invites you to this table to receive his grace.

Communion Prayer

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: Blessing and praise belong to you, gracious and eternal God. Through your living Word you created all things, the majesty of the heavens and the glory of the earth. In your wisdom and goodness you have made the human family in your own image.

L: Therefore with saints and angels and with all creation we lift up our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

P: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

L: Holy and gracious God, we give you thanks and praise that in the fullness of time you gave your only Son to be tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin; to set his face steadfastly towards Jerusalem and to be lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw all creation to himself.

Remembering

L: On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

L: We proclaim before you the mystery of our faith:

P: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Consecration

L: In obedience to his command we recall his suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension, and we look for his coming in glory. With these holy gifts we offer ourselves a holy and living sacrifice. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ. Unite us in love and peace with all your people until, in your new creation, we are brought with the whole company of heaven into the presence of your eternal glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord,

P: Amen.

L: With Christ's words on our lips and in our hearts, we pray:

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.

Breaking the Bread and Pouring the Cup

(The pastor lifts and breaks the bread and pours and lifts the cup)

(Virtual instruction: We will serve the elements to those physically present. While this is taking place have your elements prepared at home. Once all are served we will lift the elements *together* and *say*, **"These are the gifts of God for the people of God."** The pastor will continue, "come, for all things are ready!" We will then share in this sacred meal together and with all the saints at the heavenly table, at the pastor's prompting.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving After Communion

Gracious God, we thank you that you have nourished us with the bread of life and with the cup of salvation. May we who have received this sacrament be strengthened in your service; we who have sung your praises live in your glory; and we who have known the greatness of your love see you face to face in your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOING INTO THE WORLD

* Closing Hymn

"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

Lord, who through-out these forty days for us didst fast and pray, teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.

As thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win, O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.

As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord, to die to self, and chiefly live by thy most holy word.

And through these days of penitence, and through thy passion-tide, yea, evermore in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past, an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

* Benediction

Pastor Adrian

* Final Response

"First Song of Isaiah"

Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense and he will be my Savior.

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Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

Pastor Rev. Adrian Tierson 1-585-455-6364

Pastor's email adtierson@gmail.com

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 A.M to 12:00 P.M.

All other times by appointment

Church office – 610-287-9736

Church Email – office@hucc.net

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

TONIGHT

Arrangements	Victoria Bosler
Head Usher	Gary Bosler
Liturgist	Eleanor Risell
Song Leader	Christie Lohr
Greeters	Warren & Nancy Doerner
Technology	Doug MacWade & Brian Pippert

Welcome to Heidelberg! Whatever your past, whatever your religious background, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome. Join us for a spiritual journey where God is still speaking. Enter as a guest, depart as a friend.

Tonight's Offering - There are offering plates in the narthex. Please leave your offerings as you leave tonight.