



With Christ as the Cornerstone, we will build a church of living stones, where every member is a minister and is equipped to express God's love by word and deed to all people. Based on I Peter 2:5, 6

Ash Wednesday

Gathering Music

Prelude "Land of the Seeking" by Spencer LaJoye
Christian McIvor

Welcome Chrissy Tatum Williamson

† Call to Worship

One: We gather together at the edge of a new season.

All: We stand together on the guen of semathing new

All: We stand together on the cusp of something new.

One: Will we wade into self-reflection?

All: Will we invite honesty to dance?

One: Will we listen for God's invitation?

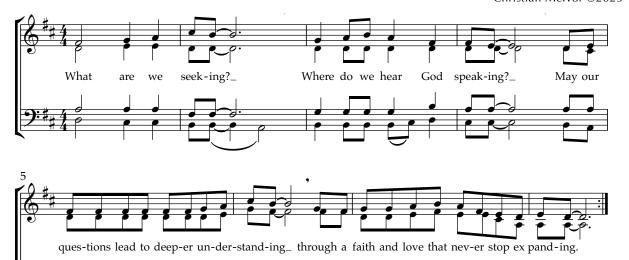
All: Will we seek deeper faith?

One: What kind of fast do we choose? What kind of faith will we build?

All: We gather together at the edge of a new season.

One: Listen, God is speaking.

[†] Please rise in body or spirit.



Call to Confession Anna Beth Cross

Prayer of Confession

One: Merciful God,

How many times in a day could we choose love?

All: How many times could we choose justice?

One: How many times could we speak kindly to ourselves?

All: How many times could we offer grace?

One: How many times, God? And how often do we miss it?

All: Forgive us for choosing the path you did not travel.

One: Forgive us for hitching our horse to the world's measure of goodness, instead of yours.

All: Return our hearts to you, and guide us continually, even in the parched places.

One: With gratitude we pray,

All: Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, Traditional English Melody

O God of love, the fast you choose Is not some great display. It's everything we gladly do To serve you day by day. It's not a moment set apart When we will mourn our sin; For you require a change of heart — A change from what has been.

Lord, we confess we often sing
That you are our delight,
Then we go shouting words that sting;
We bicker and we fight.
Oppressing others for our gain,
We put our interests first.
We overlook our neighbors' pain
While praying here in church.

You teach us what it means to be A church that worships you: In setting captive people free, We praise you as you choose. In sharing bread with hungry folk, Bringing the homeless in, And breaking every bitter yoke We worship you again.

God, bless us as we journey on To live in loving ways.
Then darkness will turn into dawn And gloom will turn to praise.
When justice is our offering,
We also will be blest,
And we will know the fast we bring Will be our very best.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 58:1-12

Steve Rose

Meditation

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Reflection

† Hymn

"Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service"

BEACH SPRING;

Words by Alber F. Bayly, Music by Benjamin Franklin White

Lord, whose love through humble service bore the weight of human need, who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy's perfect deed: we, Your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart, consecrating to your purpose every gift that You impart.

Still Your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread; still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, Your deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul, use the love Your Spirit kindles still to save and make us whole.

As we worship, grant us vision, till Your love's revealing light in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight, making known the needs and burdens Your compassion bids us bear, stirring us to tireless striving Your abundant life to share.

Called by worship to Your service, forth in Your dear name we go to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show; hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give, that Your servants, Lord, in freedom may Your mercy know, and live.

Imposition of Ashes

Anna Beth Cross and Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Blessing

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

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