



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

Ladner United Church and Tsawwassen United Church

Ash Wednesday

Feb. 17, 2010, 7:00 PM

*Portions of the service printed in **bold** are spoken by the whole congregation.*

*At the points marked "*****", those who are able are invited to stand.*

INTRODUCTION:

We gather, surrounded by the light of Christ and the waters of baptism:
we have nothing to fear from the truth which sets us free.

Let us turn with confidence to the God of grace.

CALL TO REPENTANCE: Psalm 51

VU 776

*HYMN: Giver of the Perfect Gift

VU 116

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 5:15-6:2

Pew Bible N.T. page 171

FIRST PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Merciful and generous God,

we come before you, conscious of our sins.

We are ashamed and sorry for the wrong we have done
and the good we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;

we have not even loved ourselves very well.

God of mercy, forgive us.

We know that your beautiful world suffers from greed and injustice:
children have only tears for food, and the forests groan in distress.

And we know that our comfort, our standard of living,
depends on the suffering of others and the rape of the planet.

These things disturb us,

yet, we confess that we have not protested as we ought,

or rushed to combat these evils as we should.

Make us braver, Lord, to speak out and act.

God of mercy, forgive us.

Loving God, you call us to be your church,

a witness to the power of love in the world,

but even here, we have not been faithful:

we have not known how to work out our differences

without painful conflict,

and we have held on to our anger and hurt far too long.

Set us free from these old wounds

and draw us together into one community, dedicated to your purpose.

God of mercy, forgive us.

Now, merciful God, we come to you in silence:
you already know the wrong that weighs us down,
the guilt we cannot shake.

We ask you to take them from us now and set us free to begin a new life.
(*silence*)

God of mercy, forgive us.

*HYMN: In Suffering Love

VU 614

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 58:1–12

Pew Bible O.T. page 652

SECOND PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

From lack of reverence for truth and beauty;
from a calculating or sentimental mind;
from going along with mean and ugly things;

Holy One, deliver us.

From cowardice that dares not face truth;
laziness content with half-truth;
or arrogance that purports to know it all;

Holy One, deliver us.

From artificial life and worship;
from all that is hollow or insincere;
from trite ideals and cheap pleasures;
from mistaking vulgarity for humour;

Holy One, deliver us.

From being pompous, or rude;
from cynicism about others;
from intolerance or cruel indifference;

Holy One, deliver us.

From being satisfied with things as they are,
in the church or in the world;
from failing to share your outrage about injustice;

Holy One, deliver us.

From selfishness,
self-indulgence,
or self-pity;

Holy One, deliver us.

From token concern for the poor,
for lonely or loveless people;
from confusing faith with good feeling,
or love with wanting to be loved;

Holy One, deliver us.

For everything in us that may hide your light;

Holy One, light of life, forgive us. Amen.

THIRD PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Lamb of God,

you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,

you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,

you take away the sins of the world, grant us your peace.

QUENCHING OF THE ASHES WITH BAPTISMAL WATER:

These ashes remind us of our frailty and our mortality.

This water proclaims the grace of God.

The mark we bear calls us to walk the way of the cross.

God our creator, you have formed us out of the dust of the earth.

May these ashes 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 saviour. Amen.

THE MARK OF ASHES:

(The congregation may come forward to receive the ashes while standing or kneeling.)

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

(The person may respond, "Amen.")

*HYMN: Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

VU 559

*SENDING FORTH:

Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether,

the past is finished and gone, everything becomes fresh and new.

Glory to God, whose power working in us

can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine!

Glory to God from generation to generation

in the world, in the church, and in our lives!

*BLESSING:

May the grace of Christ, the love of God,
and the sustaining power of the Holy Spirit
continue to bless your Lenten journey.

Thanks be to God! Amen.