



Trinity United Methodist Church
Alexandria, Virginia

Ash Wednesday
February 14, 2018
Seven-thirty in the evening



CONNECTING
GROWING
SERVING
CELEBRATING

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

✠ *Please stand in body and/or spirit.*

Please silence all electronic devices out of reverence for God and respect for fellow worshipers.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Pastor Bill Davis

Welcome to Trinity United Methodist Church. God's love be in us and among us as we greet all who enter our doors as children of God.

PRELUDE

Ab, Holy Jesus
Trinity Ringers

INTROIT

Create in Me a Clean Heart

✠ CALL TO WORSHIP

Marianne Vannatta

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?

**Hope in God; for we shall praise the Most High,
our help and our God.** (*Psalm 42:5*)

The Eternal has been our dwelling place in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or God had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting this is our God.

**The Most High teaches us to count our days
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.**

**God satisfies us in the morning with steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.** (*from Psalm 90*)

✠ OPENING COLLECT

Pastor Bill Davis

Blessed are you, O God, so rich in mercy,
for you gather us in solemn assembly
to receive the announcement of the Lenten spring
and the ashes of mortality and repentance.
Lead your faithful people in praise to the waters of salvation;
guide the penitent in joy to the healing river;
and carry us all to the streams of renewal;
through Christ Jesus, our reconciliation and our peace,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever. **Amen.**

✠ HYMN

O Love, How Deep
(*please sing stanzas 1, 2, 3, and 6.*)

Hymnal no. 267

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 58:1-12

Pew Bible, OT, Page 688

Marianne Vannatta

ANTHEM

Parce Domine
Lord, spare your people, do not be angry at us forever. Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy.

Felix Nowowiejski

SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Pew Bible, NT, Page 181

Marianne Vannatta

✠ GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Pastor Bill Davis

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Pastor Bill Davis

Hear the commandments which the Most High has given to God’s people:

“I am the Lord your God,
 who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;
 you shall have no other gods before be.”

Almighty God, write your law upon our hearts.

“You shall not make for yourself an idol.
 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God.
 Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.”

Almighty God, write your law upon our hearts.

“Honor your father and your mother.
 You shall not murder.
 You shall not commit adultery.
 You shall not steal.
 You shall not bear false witness.
 You shall not covet... anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

Almighty God, write your law upon our hearts.

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Beloved in Christ, the early Christians observed with great devotion
 the days of our Lord’s passion and resurrection,
 and it became the custom of the church
 that before the Easter celebration there should be
 a forty-day season of spiritual preparation.

During this Lenten season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism.
 It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins
 and had separated themselves from the community of faith
 were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness,
 and restored to participation in the life of the church.

In this way the whole congregation was reminded
 of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ
 and the need we all have to renew our faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent:
 by self-examination and repentance;
 by prayer, fasting, self-denial and giving;
 and by reading and meditating on God’s Holy Word.

To make a right beginning of repentance,
 and as a mark of our mortal nature,
 let us now bow before God, our Creator and Redeemer.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

PSALM OF CONFESSION

Psalm 51:1-17

**¹Have mercy on me, O God,
 according to your steadfast love;
 according to your abundant mercy
 blot out my transgressions.**

**²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
 and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
⁴Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.
⁵Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
⁶You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
¹¹Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.
¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
¹⁴Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.
¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
¹⁶For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
¹⁷The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

Let us pray.

Holy and merciful God,
we confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned through our own fault
in thought, and word, and deed;
in what we have done
and in what we have failed to do.

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.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have not listened 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.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness:
the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

Pastor Bill Davis

our self-indulgent appetites and ways
and our exploitation of other people,

we confess to you, O God.

Our anger at our own frustration
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

we confess to you, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship,
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

we confess to you, O God.

Accept our repentance, O God,
for the wrongs we have done.
For our neglect of human need and suffering
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

accept our repentance, O God.

For all false judgments,
for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,
and for our prejudice and contempt
toward those who differ from us,

accept our repentance, O God.

For our waste and pollution of your creation
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

accept our repentance, O God.

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

**Favorably hear us, O God,
for your mercy is great.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God,

you create us from the dust of the earth.

Make these ashes to be for us

a sign of our repentance

and a symbol of our mortality.

Inspire us always to remember

that by your grace alone

are we given eternal life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All are invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes.

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of our Savior,

bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.

PRAYER

God of compassion,

through your Son Jesus Christ

you reconciled your people to yourself.

Lead us to follow his example of prayer and fasting,

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**that we may obey you with willing hearts
and serve one another in holy love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

✠THE PEACE

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Pastor Bill Davis

OFFERTORY

Stricken, Smitten
Trinity Ringers

✠THE DOXOLOGY

Hymnal no. 95

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him, above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

✠OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor Bill Davis

God of infinite mercy,
teach us to pray with faith
and to read your Word with insight;
to gather together in love
and to worship you in spirit and truth;
to give with generosity,
to serve with compassion,
and to use our time well;
living as instruments of your grace
that others may offer you honor, praise, and glory;
through the Christ who taught us to pray together...

✠THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

✠HYMN

O For a Heart to Praise My God

Hymnal no. 417

✠DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastor Bill Davis

The God of peace make you holy in every way
and keep your whole being – spirit, soul, and body –
free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

And the blessing of Almighty God,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always.
Amen.

POSTLUDE *(please be seated)*

O Sacred Head
Trinity Ringers

Those Assisting in Worship Today:

Acolyte: Tyler Williams

Counters: Rich McKinney

Crucifer: Logan Williams

Liturgist: Marianne Vannatta

Greeters: Susan Collins

Pew Duty: John Ploch

Sound: Harley Hopkins

Ushers: Lucelle O'Flaherty (Head Usher)



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Monday - Thursday 9 AM - 5 PM | Friday 9 AM - 2 PM

Find us on the Web: www.trinityalexandria.org | Facebook: *Trinity UMC-Alexandria*

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