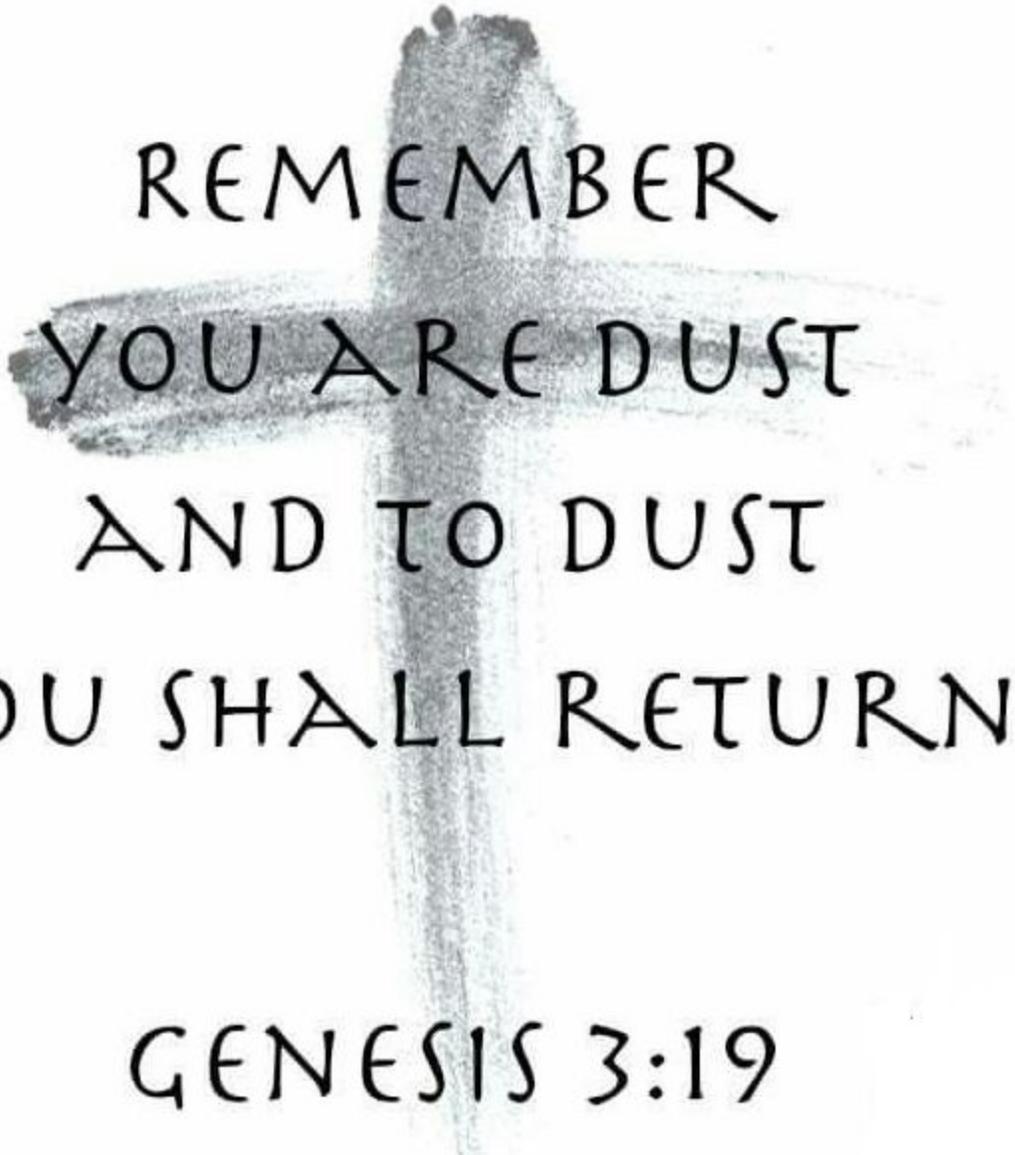


The Church of St. Mary and St. Martha



REMEMBER
YOU ARE DUST
AND TO DUST
YOU SHALL RETURN

GENESIS 3:19

7 pm, Wednesday, February 17, 2021

www.stmaryandstmartha.org

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Ash Wednesday beckons us to enter a season that offers us time and space to discover what is essential. The ashes that lead us into this season remind us where we have come from. An ancient sign of humility and penitence, they beckon us to consider what is most basic to us, what is elemental, what survives after all that is extraneous is burned away. With its images of ashes and wilderness, Lent challenges us to reflect on what we have filled our lives with, and to see if there are habits, practices, possessions, and ways of being that might insulate us and dull us to the presence of God.

Sharing time in prayer with friends and neighbours is a fitting way to begin the journey of Lent. May it nourish your journey into the very heart of God's love.

Holy Communion

Opening Hymn **The Glory of These Forty Days**

The Greeting

Presider The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

The Collect of the Day

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Psalm 103.8-18

Said responsively by full verse

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

**He will not always accuse us,
nor will he keep his anger for ever.**

He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

**For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.**

As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our sins from us.

**As a father cares for his children,
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.**

For he himself knows whereof we are made;
he remembers that we are but dust.

**Our days are like the grass;
we flourish like a flower of the field;**

When the wind goes over it, it is gone,
and its place shall know it no more.

**But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever on those who fear him,
and his righteousness on children's children;**

On those who keep his covenant
and remember his commandments and do them.

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10

Reader A reading from Paul's second Letter to the Corinthians.

²⁰We 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.

¹As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, 'At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.' See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn What Wondrous Love is This

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

Reader The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

¹Beware of practising 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.

Reader The Gospel of Christ.

People Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon
Henderson

Rev. Canon Dr. Murray

Silence for reflection

The Invitation

Presider Dear friends in Christ, every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery. We begin this holy season by remembering our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes, an ancient sign, speaking of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marking the penitence of the community as a whole.

I invite you therefore, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God.

Psalm 51.1-18

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offences.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgement.

Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb.

For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you.

Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Litany of Penitence

Please sit or kneel

All Most holy and merciful Father, we confess to you, to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

Leader We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

All Have mercy on us, Lord.

Leader We have been deaf 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.

All Have mercy on us, Lord.

Leader We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

All We confess to you, Lord.

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

All We confess to you, Lord.

Leader Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

All We confess to you, Lord.

Leader Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

All We confess to you, Lord.

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

All We confess to you, Lord.

Leader Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

All Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

All Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

All Accept our repentance, Lord.

Leader Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;
All Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

Presider Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you have created us. May we never forget that only by your gracious gift are we given eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

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

Presider By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord,
People bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The Absolution

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Please stand

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory Song

The Prayer over the Gifts

Presider Merciful God, turn us from sin to faithfulness. Accept our offerings of water, bread and wine, and prepare us to celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth, because you bid your faithful people to cleanse their hearts and to prepare with joy for the paschal feast; that reborn through the waters of baptism and renewed in the Eucharistic mystery, we may be more fervent in prayer and more generous in the works of love. Therefore we raise our voices to you in praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

Sanctus

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Presider We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

All **we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Presider As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,
**All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider We break this bread
People Communion in Christ's body once broken.
Presider Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.
People If we have died with him, we shall live with him; if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.

The Communion

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.
People Thanks be to God.

**Agnus Dei Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world,
give us your peace, give us your peace.**

Spiritual Communion

All Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all in heart, mind, soul, and strength. In the absence of receiving you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. In this moment, increase our faith and trust as we remember your words, 'Blessed are those

who have not seen and yet have come to believe'. As though you have already come, I embrace you and ask never to be separated from you. Amen.

Prayers after Communion

Please stand

Presider Let us pray. God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Presider Glory to God,
All whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing May the God of mercy transform you by his grace, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Dismissal Response: Thanks be to God.

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