



FULLERTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
FEBRUARY 6, 2008

*Let the people be in silent prayer and meditation
upon entering the Sanctuary.*

PRELUDE "Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin" **Hyeyeon Kim, Organist**
J. S. Bach, Composer

*** CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively)**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the Gospel of God and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe the Gospel." He also said: "I have come that you might have life, and have that abundantly."

People: We come before God this night, Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, to hear God's word and to ask God to strengthen us in our faith that we live more holy lives.

*** HYMN** "Just As I Am" **No. 357**

PRAYER (Unison)

God, this is a hard time. The focus of Lent is on the pain and suffering of Jesus and our own need for penitence. It is a time of gathering darkness. But we would rather skip this part and go straight to Easter. We would rather ignore the suffering – in you and in the world – and avoid the hard work of true self-examination. Forgive us for wanting this to be bright and painless and easy, when we know that Jesus did not take the easy way, but chose the path the Cross. Teach us the true meaning of penitence, so that we use this Lenten season to humbly seek a clean heart and a renewed spirit. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Psalm 51: 1-17

SCRIPTURE Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsively)

One: The truth is this: God's love and mercy are never-ending. God know us in our inward being; God cleanses us from our sins and shortcomings, and restores to us the joy of salvation.

All: Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC "Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace"
Mary McDonald, Composer

The Aldersgate Chorale
Ann Sandford, Conducting

MEDITATION "Our Material Treasures" **Susan Brown, Seminary Intern**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

INVITATION TO RENEWAL (Imposition of Ashes)

SILENT MEDITATION

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation that we may show forth the transformative power of your love. By the life and death and transformation of Jesus Christ, bring our minds and hearts to such a depth of understanding that we, too, accept the full promise and challenge of your love. Amen.

*** HYMN** "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" **No. 269**

*** BENEDICTION**

*** POSTLUDE** "O mensch, bewin deine sunde gros" **Hyeyeon Kim, Organist**
J. S. Bach, Composer

Create in me a clean heart, O God.



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