

March 5, 2025
6:00 p.m.
Ash Wednesday

Chiming of the Hour

We gather in community this evening to worship God.
To help center our focus in worship, please silence all electronic devices.

Welcome and Call to Worship

Timothy Peoples

Prelude

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

arr. David Cherwien

+Congregational Song

More Love to Thee, O Christ
No. 365

MORE LOVE TO THEE

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures — Isaiah 58:1-12

Darren DeMent and Maggie Morey

Shout out; do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.
Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.
“Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.
You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

+All congregants are invited to stand in body or spirit.
Hearing devices are available in the Narthex and South Atrium.

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?
Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and the LORD will say, "Here I am."
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
And for the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God!

Meditation

Hear My Words Shekinah

Stephen Paulus

Hear my words, O gracious Lord,
To my thoughts attentive be;
Hear my cry, my King, my God,
I will make my prayers to thee.

With the morning light, O Lord,
Thou shalt hear my voice arise;
And expectant I will bring,
Prayer as morning sacrifice.

Thou art Holy, O my God,
Thou delightest not in sin;
Evil shall not dwell with thee,
Nor the proud thy favor win.

Homily

Timothy Peoples

Congregational Song

I Am Thine O Lord
No. 504
Stanzas 2 and 3

I AM THINE

Prayers of Confession

Katie Murray

Silence

We pause in silence to reflect and to be attentive to the Spirit of God.

+Congregational Song

Sign Us With Ashes
The choir will sing the verses.
Please join in singing the refrain.

PHOENIX

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first line of the refrain, and the second staff contains the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Sign us with ash - es, mer - ci - ful God, chil - dren of dust, as to dust we re - turn.

Sign us with ash - es, mer - ci - ful God. Mark us and make us your own.

Imposition of Ashes

As you exit the Sanctuary, you may use the center aisles to receive the imposition of ashes.

If you do not wish to receive the imposition of ashes, you may exit along the outside aisles.

Please leave in silence.

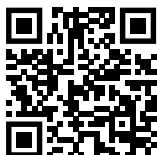


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Building a Community of Faith Shaped by the Spirit of Jesus Christ

Partnered with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Member, Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists



We're glad you're here. If you're a guest today and would like to let us know, please scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to access our online response card. You can also scan the code to make a financial contribution or submit a prayer request. Response cards and offering envelopes are available in the pew racks and can be placed in the offering plate or offering boxes.