

Words of Institution
Ashes and the Feast
Prayer After the Meal

*Closing Hymn – We Cannot Measure How You Heal

LAMENT AND LONGING FOR HEALING

797 We Cannot Measure How You Heal

1 We can - not mea - sure how you heal or
2 The pain that will not go a - way, the
3 So some have come who need your help and

an - swer ev - ery suf - ferer's prayer, yet
guilt that clings from things long past, the
some have come to make a - mends, as

we be - lieve your grace re - sponds where
fear of what the fu - ture holds, are
hands which shaped and saved the world are

faith and doubt u - nite to care. Your
pres - ent as if meant to last. But
pres - ent in the touch of friends. Lord,

This 20th-century text from the Iona Community grapples with the realities of illness and pain, not only as they afflict the body but even more as they lay waste to mind and soul. The traditional folk melody helps to convey the sort of communal experience assumed in the last stanza.

TEXT: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1989
MUSIC: Scottish melody; arr. John L. Bell, 1989
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YE BANKS AND BRAES
LMD

*Charge and Benediction

PASTOR: Rev. Bill Davis

ORGANIST: Becky Carlisle



Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church
Northglenn, Colorado
A Service of Word and Table
February 14, 2018 7:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday

Welcome

Mind

*Call to Worship

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in love.
In the name of Christ, be reconciled to God.
This is the day of our salvation.
Let us worship God.

*Opening Hymn

O God of Love, The Fast You Choose

KINGSFOLD 8.6.8.6 D ("Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples")

O God of love, the fast you choose Is not some great display.
It's everything we gladly do To serve you day by day.
It's not a moment set apart When we will mourn our sin;
For you require a change of heart — A change from what has been.

Lord, we confess we often sing That you are our delight,
Then we go shouting words that sting; We bicker and we fight.
Oppressing others for our gain, We put our interests first.
We overlook our neighbors' pain While praying here in church.

You teach us what it means to be A church that worships you:
In setting captive people free, We praise you as you choose.
In sharing bread with hungry folk, Bringing the homeless in,
And breaking every bitter yoke We worship you again.

God, bless us as we journey on To live in loving ways.
Then darkness will turn into dawn And gloom will turn to praise.
When justice is our offering, We also will be blest,
And we will know the fast we bring Will be our very best.

Body

Opening Prayer

**God our Redeemer, we confess that we are people of ashes and dust.
We want you to notice our humility, but we fail to notice neighbors in need.
We want you to show us your mercy, but we fail to show mercy to others.
Forgive us, God of grace. Cleanse our hearts and renew our spirits
so that we may know once again the joy of your saving love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Poetry Reading

Prayer

Scripture Reading

Heart

Video Reflection

Lenten Meditation

Prayer

**God of holiness: your day comes near,
and we tremble, not out of fear,
but from awe and gratitude.**

**For on your day,
we are fully known,
completely restored,
reconciled to you forever.**

Jesus Christ, Grace Bearer:

**as we come to your fast, may we be filled with your hope;
as we receive your gifts, may our hearts be opened to others;
as we begin our journey with you,
may we put no roadblocks
in the path to Jerusalem.**

Holy Spirit, Creator of clean hearts:

**as water rushes into an empty hole,
may our sacramental silence
fill the emptiness of our souls.**

**God in Community, Holy in One, our Treasure, our Hope, our Joy,
hear us as we pray as Jesus taught us, saying,**

**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 debts, as we
forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Soul

Imposition of Ashes and Communion

Invitation

We try, God knows, we try.

We show up at church, hoping God will notice.

We study Scripture, pretending God is reading aloud to us;

we put on those masks to show everyone

how proper we are,

how law-abiding,

how religious;

and we wonder – does God even care?

**Not when we clench our fists in anger,
rather than opening them in love;**

not when we work people too hard,

and pay them too little;

**not when we speak bitter and harmful words
to those we are given to love.**

So tonight, as we begin our Lenten fast,

God offers us a feast. Why?

So that the broken bread will strengthen us

to break the chains of injustice,

to take the burden of poverty off our neighbors,

to stop trying to control those around us,

to fix a meal for the hungry.

God offers us a feast

so that the cup of grace will free us

to take coats out of our closets

and wrap them around shivering shoulders;

to offer shelter to the homeless

without judging them;

to spend more time with our families

and less on the internet.

So, come to this Table and eat.

Then, you will see the light God offers to your darkness;

then, you will find the path God calls you to walk;

then, you will discover God waiting to help you,

even before you say a word.

We will come to this Table and feast.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

People of God, may the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

People of dust, lift up your hearts to God.

We lift them up to the One who created us.

People of ashes, give thanks to the Lord our God.

Praise and thanks are offered to the One who restores us to life.