

AN ORDER FOR ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 25, 1998, 11 A.M.
YORK CHAPEL

Prelude

* Call to Worship

* Hymn No. 417 "O For a Heart To Praise My God"

RICHMOND

* Collect for Ash Wednesday
(response) All. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word

The First Lesson Isaiah 58:1-12
(response) All: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem "Turn Thy Face From My Sins" Thomas Attwood (1765-1838)

Turn thy face from my sins, and put out all my misdeeds. Make me a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.

--Psalm 51:9-11

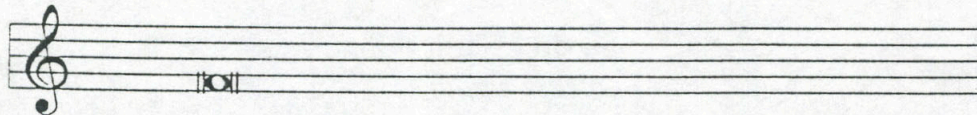
The Second Lesson Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
(response) All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Lenten Opportunity"

Confession of Sin and Imposition of Ashes

Invitation (followed by silence)

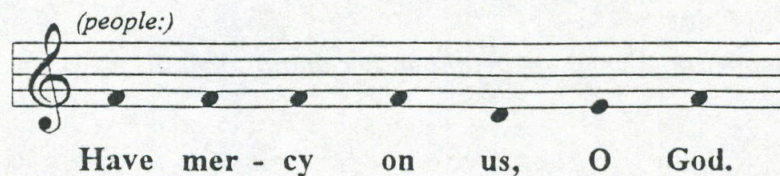
Prayer



(leader:) Almighty and most merciful God: (people:) **we confess to you...**

...and 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 all our heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

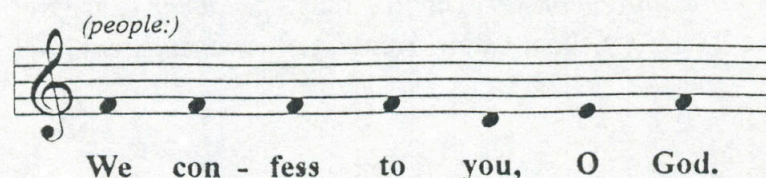


Have mer - cy on us, O God.

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.

People: **Have mercy on us, O God.**

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



We con - fess to you, O God.

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

People: **We confess to you, O God.**

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

People: **We confess to you, O God.**

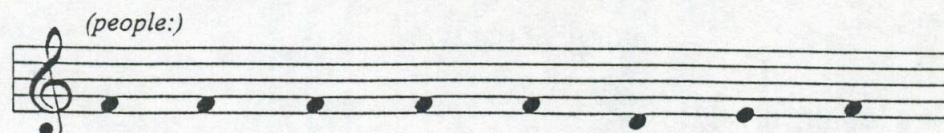
Leader: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in our daily life and work,

People: **We confess to you, O God.**

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

People: **We confess to you, O God.**

Leader: 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,



Ac - cept our re - pen - tance, O God.

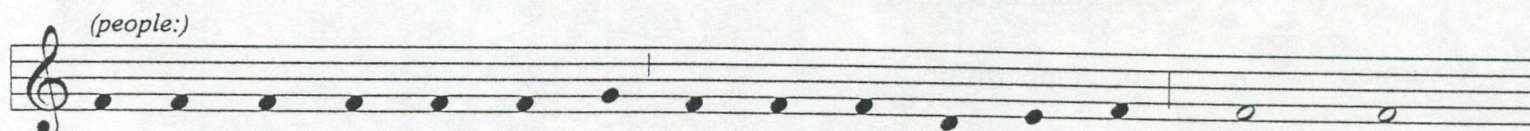
Leader: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

People: **Accept our repentance, O God.**

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

People: **Accept our repentance, O God.**

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



Fa - vora - bly hear us, O God, for your mer - cy is great. A - men.

(The people are invited to come forward to receive ashes)

Absolution

Sending Forth
(please stand)

Leader: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

People: **That we may show forth your glory.**

Leader: By the cross and passion of our Savior,

People: **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.**

All. **Amen.**

Commissioning and Dismissal

(response) All: **Thanks be to God!**

(All depart in silence, or people may remain to meditate.)



Prayer of Confession from the "Order for Ash Wednesday" in the *Book of Worship of the United Church of Christ* (1986)

Ministry of Worship:

Robin J. Townsley Arcus - *presiding minister*, David Arcus - *preacher*, Earlynne Bartley - *lector*
The Divinity School Choir Kent Otto - *choirmaster*