



A service for Ash Wednesday

17th February 2021

Led by the Reverend John Musson and Reverend Rachel Archer

Today it is very easy
to point out the injustice of others.
But how few cast a glance at their own conscious!
How easy is it to denounce structural injustice,
institutionalised violence, social scene!
It is true this scene is everywhere,
but where are the roots of this social sin?
In the heart of every human being.
We are all sinners.
Salvation begins with a human person.
And in Lent this is God's call:
Be converted!

Oscar Romero (1917-1980)

This booklet contains some suggestions about how you may like to prepare for today's service as well as the words you will need.

How to prepare for the service:

Lent is therefore a time of preparation: for self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and to get ready for Easter.

You may like to listen to a choral version of Psalm 51 by Allegri before coming to our service, perhaps meditating upon verses 1-2:

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mh6s71MicgY>

We also invite you to make your own ashes this year. Some people like to burn their palm cross from last year, others may like to use garden waste or newspapers or whatever you can find at home. Please take care when burning materials, using an old biscuit tin or oven tray is a good idea, and preferably do your burning outside! After burning them you will need to mix your ash with a little bit of oil, a pestle and mortar is good for this, so that when you come to use them they do stick to your forehead or back of your hand. This short film will show you John making his ashes: <https://youtu.be/DwUuRB5Amg8>

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence and will be used in the service during a time of confession by marking the sign of the cross with them.

How to access the service:

There are two ways to join our worship on Ash Wednesday:

1. **Dial in from your landline** – 0333 0160 300 (local rate call) Room number: 52233710 # PIN: 9273 # at 11am and you will be able to join John and Rach as they lead this service on the telephone.
2. **Watch online** – the service will be available to watch throughout the day and evening on our fb page (www.facebook.com/pcdchurches) and our youtube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCs4iL6vqtF_t04VsY7ywOwQ)

Before the service begins you may like to create a holy space in your home in which to worship. It can help to light a candle as a reminder that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are present as we gather together wherever we are to worship him.

Please join in with the words in **bold type**.



The liturgy of Ash Wednesday

Greeting and introduction

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting. By carefully keeping these days, Christians take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the church, to the observance of a holy lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

In the silence that follows let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Silence is kept

The Collect

Holy God,

Our lives are laid open before you:

Rescue us from the chaos of sin and through the death of your Son

Bring us healing and make us whole

In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord

John 8:1-11

While Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went

away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, sir.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon from John

The liturgy of penitence

Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

God the Father, **have mercy on us.**

God the Son, **have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit, **have mercy on us.**

Trinity of love, **have mercy on us.**

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.

After each petition there will be a time of silence for personal reflection

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts towards our Neighbours and for our prejudice and contempt towards those who differ from us.

Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

Favourably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

that we may show your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Silence is kept.

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

**In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

The imposition of ashes

Dear friends in Christ, I invite you to hold your ashes as a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of Lent.

God our Father,
you create us from the dust of the earth:
grant that these ashes may be for us a sign of our penitence
and a symbol of our mortality; for it is by your grace alone that we
receive eternal life in Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

You may like to join in with me as I make the sign of the cross with my ash on my forehead, alternatively you may like to use the back of your hand. And after you have done so, to say the words that follow:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

Following the imposition of ashes, we will listen to an anthem by Farrant called Lord for thy tender mercy's sake. The words in this anthem are based on Psalm 51 and invite us to reflect on how great the gift of God's forgiveness is for us.

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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 trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit ,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ. Amen

© Material has been taken from the following sources:

An Anthology for the Church Year by HJ Richards (P.100 Sinners all
by Oscar Romero)

Times and Seasons Archbishops Council 2006

*Thank you for joining us today. You maybe interested in continuing your
Lenten journey with us by partaking in some of the ideas listed on the
next page.*

Lent Challenge – Gold, Silver and Bronze bible reading

Lent isn't about giving things up, but growing closer to Jesus. Why not challenge yourself to read the whole Bible during Lent?

Lent Self-Care – 40 acts of kindness

In these challenging times why not focus on 40 acts of self-care?

Lent Course Wednesdays at 8pm starting 24th February

A course based on the BBC TV Drama 'Broken' starring Sean Bean.

Sundays in Lent

As we continue our services online for the first 3 Sundays in Lent – 21st, 28th February and 7th March-our worship will focus on Psalm 23 and readings on significant moments of Jesus ministry as he begins to look towards the cross.

Knitted butterflies

No experience necessary – patterns provided – why not knit a butterfly or two- these will be placed around the parishes for anyone to find and take home. Attached to them will be a word of blessing and an invitation to walk with us the way of the cross.

Daily Prayer

Why not join with others from our churches for any of our daily prayer times – Monday-Friday mornings 9.15am and evenings 5pm

All details are to be found on our website www.pcd.org.uk or you can call John Musson (01959 540012) or Rachel Archer (01959 700097) for more information.