

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 6, 2008

7:30 p.m.

OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD

THE APPROACH TO GOD

Prelude "Dirge" Thomas Attwood

Opening Sentences

Call to Worship

Leader: O God the Father, creator of heaven and earth,

People: Have mercy on us.

Leader: O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

People: Have mercy on us.

Leader: O God the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide,

People: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, three Persons and one God,

People: Have mercy on us.

All: Loving, God whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to us who have gone astray from Your ways, and bring us again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word, Jesus Christ your Son.

Hymn #242 (RIL) "The Glory of These Forty Days" ERHALT UNS, HERR

THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Ecclesiastes 3:19-22 p. 538

Meditation DUST IN THE WIND *Gordon Long, Elder*
Stanton Reformed Church

Anthem "Create in Me a Clean Heart" Paul Bouman
Combined Choirs of Readington Reformed and Stanton Reformed Churches

Invitation to Observe a Lenten Discipline

Prayer of Confession

Psalm 51

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

People: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Leader: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

People: Against You, You alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified in Your sentence and blameless when You pass judgment.

Leader: Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

People: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Leader: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

People: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that You have crushed rejoice.

Leader: Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

People: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Leader: Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

People: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Leader: Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You.

People: Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Your deliverance.

Leader: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

People: For You have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, You would not be pleased.

Leader: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

People: Do good to Zion in Your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then You will delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Your altar.

Imposition of Ashes

Gracious God, You created us out of the dust of the earth and breathed into us the breath of life. By Your hand we live and to Your hands we return when all our days are done. Grant that the awareness of our mortality may lead us not

to fear, but to faith. In our weakness teach us to look to You for strength, in our failures to turn to You and find forgiveness, and in our dying to await the gift of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All who would like to come forward to receive ashes, on their foreheads or on the back of their hands, are welcome to do so.

Response Psalm 103

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul;
People: and all that is within me, bless God's Holy Name!

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul;
People: and forget not all His benefits.

Leader: who forgives all our iniquity,
People: who heals all our diseases,

Leader: who redeems our lives from the Pit,
People: who crowns us with steadfast love and mercy.

Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious,
People: slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Leader: He does not deal with us according to our sins,
People: nor requite us according to our iniquities.

Leader: For as the heavens are high above the earth,
People: so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him;

Leader: as far as the east is from the west,
People: so far does He remove our transgressions from us.

Leader: As a father pities his children,
People: so the Lord pities those who fear Him.

Leader: Who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, and will also give us all things with Him.

ALL: Therefore shall my mouth and heart show forth the praise of the Lord, from this time forth forevermore. Amen.

Offering of our Prayers and Lives, ending with the Lord's Prayer.

Hymn #428 (RIL) "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee" MARYTON

Charge and Benediction

Tonight's offering will be split between Stanton Reformed Church and Readington Reformed Church and should be placed in the offering plates by the door.

READINGTON REFORMED CHURCH

Organized 1719

Ash Wednesday
February 6, 2008



Above all, we exist to worship God. Through the grace of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will make the love of Jesus Christ tangible by caring for one another and those around us and will go out into the world to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ

The Rev. Cathy Gumpert, Pastor
The Rev. Donald A. McCabe, Pastor Emeritus