

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent in the Christian year. It represents part of our journey with God. God in Jesus Christ pours out grace-filled love upon us. God's goodness and mercy cause us to see the darkness in ourselves. As we turn towards God, deeply saddened by our sinfulness and failure, we are repenting. Since the Middle Ages this repentance has been symbolized for believers by the imposition of a cross of ashes on the forehead. The ashes are a symbol of our confession of sin and our sorrow for it. The symbol of the cross declares simply: "I am forgiven...I am Christian."

Remember...

Who you are

Whose you are



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Wallingford Presbyterian Church

*February 17, 2010, 7:30PM*

# *The Worship of Our Lord*

PRELUDE

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

**People: God's love endures forever.**

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble.

**People: Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.**

Pastor: God's love endures forever.

**People: We return to God with all our hearts.**

HYMN 85

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

WONDROUS LOVE

PRAYER FOR THE DAY (unison)

*Almighty and everlasting God, who of thy tender love toward us sent thy son, our savior, to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross that all humankind should follow the example of His great humility. Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of His patience, and also be made partakers of his Resurrection, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58: 1-9

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

*O God, we confess our attachment to earthy treasures, Our hypocrisy and hidden idols, Our temptation to forsake you, to take the "easy way" out. At this time we ask not only for your grace and mercy, but also for your strength to let go of all that keeps us from you. Forgive us and draw us closer to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18

HYMN 81

*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

ST. FLAVIAN

HOMILY

*"Practice for the Game"*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

from Psalm 51

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. Wash me thoroughly from my sin and cleanse me. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and rebuild in me a generous spirit. Deliver me, O God of my hope, and my heart will sing again of your salvation. Amen.*

SUNG RESPONSE 2030

*The First Song of Isaiah* (Sing 4 times) FIRST SONG

*Surely, it is God who saves me;  
I will trust in him and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure defense,  
and he will be my Savior.*

Words: From The Book of Common Prayer, Canticle 9 (Isa. 12: 2-6); Music: Jack Noble White; ©1976 Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp. (admin. By Warner Bros. Publications).

INVITATION TO THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

*All worshippers are invited to step forward by the side aisles, come to the front to receive the ash mark of the cross upon your forehead and to receive communion. Please break bread from the loaf offered, dip the bread into the cup and receive. All who are baptized are welcome to commune. If you wish to receive communion in your pew, please remain seated and an elder will offer the elements to you.*

SENDING HYMN 544

*Day Is Done*

AR HYD Y NOS

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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