



ASH WEDNESDAY
March 6, 2019 – 7:30pm
James Chapel

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY
(Reformed Church in America)

Founded in 1642
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ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Spiritual Arr.
Mark Hayes

CALL TO REPENTANCE

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

HYMN (insert)

Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

LITANY OF CONFESSION

Sung Response 572 *Lord, have mercy upon us.*
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Leader: Before you, Jesus Christ,
we admit how and where
we have underestimated our influence,
letting our words or silences hurt,
abusing trust, betraying confidences.

Sung Response

Leader: We admit how and where
we have made a show of our religion,
attracting more attention to us,
and less to you.

Sung Response

Leader: We admit to where in our lives
a vague interest
has become a dangerous passion,
and we are not sure what to do
or whether we are still in control.

Sung Response

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ,
if we have looked or longed for

an easier gospel,
a lighter cross,
a less demanding savior,
then turn our eyes and avert our longing
from what we want to choose
to the one who has chosen us.

Forgive our unfaithfulness,
and, for our better living,
give us not the remedy we desire tomorrow,
but the grace you offer today.

We ask this for your love's sake.

ALL: AMEN.

TIME FOR GIVING UP OUR SINS

CHORAL RESPONSE *Lord for Thy Tender Mercies' Sake* Richard Farrant

[You are invited to write your personal confessions on the slip of paper provided here, and to bring it forward to be placed in the bowl. The confessions will be burned, and mixed with palm branch ashes for the imposition of ashes this evening.]

**From the branches of last year's palms,
from the echoes of last year's Hosannas,
from the brittleness of last year's good intentions,
come the ashes of our repentance.**

[You are invited to receive a sign of repentance through the imposition of ashes on your forehead or your hands. When everyone who wants to has received the ashes, we will continue with the confession.]

All: God of grace and mercy, forgive us for the wrongs we have done to one another and to you. Help us to mend our ways. Help us to know your pardon

that, strengthened by your steadfast love, we may live as you would have us live. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 51:1-17

SUNG RESPONSE (insert) *Give Me a Clean Heart*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

From the life-giving waters of creation,
from the birthing waters of our baptism,
from the cleansing waters of God's forgiveness,
come the waters of our pardon.

[To receive a sign of God's forgiveness, you are invited to wash away the ashes on your forehead or hands. If you wish, you might make a sign of the cross with the water as a reminder of your baptism. When all have received, we will continue.]

HYMN

Heal Me, Hands of Jesus,

SUTTON COMMON

UNISON PRAYER

You have created a clean heart in us, O God, and washed us thoroughly. You have put a new and right spirit in us.

As we make our Lenten journey, sustain this willing spirit within us. As we journey from the ashes of repentance to the wonder of resurrection, restore to us the joy of your salvation. Amen.

CHOOSING A FAST: A LENTEN TREASURE

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

HYMN

Spirit, Open My Heart

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

[The choir will sing the verses and the congregation will join in the chorus.]

*Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.*

POSTLUDE:

I've Got Peace Like a River

Spiritual Arr.
Mark Hayes

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy 75

RESTORATION



1. Come, ye sin - ners, poor and need - y, weak and wound - ed, sick and sore;
2. Come, ye thirst - y, come, and wel - come, God's free boun - ty glo - ri - fy;
3. Let not con - science make you lin - ger, nor of fit - ness fond - ly dream;
4. Come, ye wea - ry, heav - y la - den, lost and ru - ined by the fall;
5. Lo! th' in - car - nate God, as - cend - ed, pleads the mer - it of His blood;



Je - sus read - y stands to save you, full of pit - y, love, and pow'r.
true be - lief and true re - pen - tance, ev - 'ry grace that brings you nigh.
all the fit - ness He re - quir - eth is to feel your need of Him.
if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter, you will nev - er come at all.
ven - ture on Him, ven - ture whol - ly; let no oth - er trust in - trude.



WORDS: Joseph Hart, 1759

8.7.8.7

MUSIC: *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Alternate tune: BRYN CALFARIA, no. 166

an

Give Me a Clean Heart

Psalm 51:1-12

Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.

The first system of music features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Give me a clean heart so I may serve you."

God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you."

For I'm not worthy of all these blessings.

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "For I'm not worthy of all these blessings."

Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you.

The fourth system concludes the piece with the final line of lyrics: "Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you."

~ silence ~

Heal Me, Hands of Jesus

1. Heal me, hands of Je - sus, and search out all my
 2. Cleanse me, blood of Je - sus, take bit - ter-ness a -
 3. Know me, mind of Je - sus, and show me all my
 4. Fill me, joy of Je - sus; anx - i - e - ty shall

4
 pain; re - store my hope, re - move my fear,
 way; let me for - give as one for - given
 sin; dis - pel the mem - o - ries of guilt
 cease, and heaven's se - ren - i - ty be mine,

1-3. 4.
 and bring me peace a - gain.
 and bring me peace to - day.
 and bring me peace with - in.
 for Je - sus brings me peace!

United Methodist Hymnal 262

WORDS: Michael Perry, 1982; © 1982 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by Permission.

MUSIC (SUTTON COMMON, SM): Norman L. Warren, 1982; © 1982 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by Permission.

Spirit, Open My Heart

Capo 3: (D) (G) (D) (G) (A7)
F B^b F B^b C7

Refrain

Spir - it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of
 liv - ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing
 and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart. *Fine*

(Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7) (Bm) (D/A) (Em)
Dm F/C B^b C7 Dm F/C Gm

(D) (G) (Em7) (D) (G) (D)
F B^b Gm7 F B^b F

(D) (G) (D) (G)
F B^b F B^b

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
 2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
 3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

(A7) (Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7)
C7 Dm F/C B^b C7

kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
 goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
 sis - ter, broth - er. In the wel - come of

(Bm) (Em7) (D) (G2) (G)
Dm Gm7 F B^b2 B^b

to Refrain

fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
 deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
 Christ, may we wel - come one an - oth - er.

The pace and diversity of modern life often hinder us from remaining vulnerable to our emotions and to the humanness of other people. This prayerful text to be open to such joys and pains draws on Ezekiel 11:19 and 36:26 in stanza one and echoes Jeremiah 31:33 in stanza two.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1994
 MUSIC: Irish melody, arr. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011
 Text © 1996 The Pilgrim Press

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME
 Irregular