



WESTMINSTER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • BUFFALO

March 2, 2022
Worship at 7 PM
Ash Wednesday

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Choral Dorian

Jehan Alain (1911-1940)

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Leach

INTROIT

Miserere mei Deus

Antonio Lotti (1667-1740)

Miserere mei Deus, secundum magnam misericordiam tuam, et secundum multitudinem miserationum tuarum dele iniquitatem meam.

Grant us mercy, O Lord, according to the multitude of thy tender mercies; forgive our iniquities, we pray.

CALL TO WORSHIP

The people stand and remain standing for the hymn that follows.

God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world,
But that the world might be saved through Him.

God's love endures forever.

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

God's love endures forever.

Let us worship God.

HYMN IN PROCESSION

This hymn may be found on the inserted page.

Sunday's Palms are Wednesday's Ashes

BEACH SPRING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION



PSALM

Psalm 103

PLAINCHANT

¹Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy Name. ²Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. ³He forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities; ⁴He redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness; ⁵He satisfies you with good things, and your youth is renewed like an eagle's. ⁶The Lord executes righteousness and judgment for all who are oppressed. ⁷He made his ways known to Moses and his works to the children of Israel. ⁸The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness. ⁹He will not always accuse us, nor will he keep his anger for ever. ¹⁰He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. ¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so is his mercy great upon those who fear him. ¹²As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our sins from us. ¹³As a father cares for his children, so does the Lord care for those who fear him. ¹⁴For he himself knows whereof we are made; he remembers that we are but dust. ¹⁵Our days are like the grass; we flourish like a flower of the field; ¹⁶When the wind goes over it, it is gone, and its place shall know it no more. ¹⁷But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever on those who fear him, and his righteousness on children's children; ¹⁸On those who keep his covenant and remember his commandments and do them. ¹⁹The Lord has set his throne in heaven, and his kingship has dominion over all. ²⁰Bless the Lord, you angels of his, you mighty ones who do his bidding, and hearken to the voice of his word. ²¹Bless the Lord, all you his hosts, you ministers of his who do his will. ²²Bless the Lord, all you works of his, in all places of his dominion; bless the Lord, O my soul.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Rev. Nutter Dowling

Isaiah 58:1-12

¹Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. ³"Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you: the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.



MEDITATION

INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and merciful God, 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. We have not loved You with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven. Restore us, O God of our salvation, and show us Your steadfast love. Turn to us in Your mercy and redeem us. Through Christ our Lord.

KYRIE

Westminster Buffalo Service, Howard Helvey (b. 1968)

The people sing.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Following the pastor's prayer, all are invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes.

VOLUNTARY

A Litany

Philip Moore (b. 1943)

Drop, drop, slow tears, and bathe those beautiful feet,
Which brought from heaven the news and Prince of Peace.

Cease not, wet eyes, his mercies to entreat;
To cry for vengeance sin doth never cease.

In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears;
Nor let his eye see sin, but through my tears.

PRAYER

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

That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of our Savior,

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

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*As you receive the bread and cup, it is appropriate to say "Amen" or "Thanks be to God."
After worship, please dispose of the packaging in the receptacle outside the Sanctuary.*



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

The people stand to sing.

No. 85: What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE

BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Litanies*

Jehan Alain

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Dr. Todd E. Leach, Senior Pastor

Rev. Katelyn Nutter Dowling, Associate Pastor for Christian Education

Garrett F. Martin, Organist and Director of Music Ministries

The Westminster Schola

MUSIC NOTES

*The plainsong phrase which opens the music is repeated continually, propelled by a locomotive rhythm to an ecstatic climax. Alain once wrote about how to play Litanies. 'You must create an impression of passionate incantation. Prayer is not a lament but a devastating tornado, flattening everything in its way. It is also an obsession. You must fill men's ears with it, and God's ears too.'

The score itself is headed with a quotation which can be related to the death of one of Alain's sisters in 1937, the year in which it was written: 'When the Christian soul is in distress and cannot find any fresh words to implore God's mercy, it repeats the same prayer unceasingly with overwhelming faith. The limit of reason is past. It is faith alone which propels its ascent.'