

ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 17, 2021, 7PM



THE WAY OF THE CELTIC CROSS



Bethel Lutheran Church
Portland, Oregon



A Celtic Invocation

I bind unto myself today the strong name of the (+) Holy Trinity:

**The Water of Life,
The Deep Salt Sea around the old Eternal Rock,
Our Birth in Baptism and our Salvation.
Amen.**

Reading

Psalm 121:1 – 2

I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Some Words of Invitation and Encouragement

Pastor Scott Dunfee

Call to the Journey of Lent and Confession

Family in Christ: we were created to experience joy in communion with God—the True Friend and Lover of our Souls.

We were created to love humanity and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin and brokenness separate us from God, our neighbors and creation, so we do not always enjoy the life our Creator intended for us.

God does not desire us to come under judgment, but to turn to God and live and grow and flourish and dance with the Lord!

As followers of Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Dance, we are called to repent and to wrestle with everything that leads us away from loving God, creation, our neighbors and ourselves.

Fellowship, worship, prayer and fasting, study, service, financial giving and sharing our faith--these spiritual disciplines help us to cherish our relationships with God and people, all creatures and all creation, and to continue our spiritual journey.

I invite you to commit yourselves to this “Way of the Cross” , and to call upon God, asking for strength, to persevere and to grow in grace and faith.

Silence for reflection and confession.

Most Merciful God,

We confess to you and to one another, that we are broken. 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 are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your boundless compassion, forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may find joy in the journey and walk in your ways, through Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Dance and Lover of our Souls. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

The Good News is that God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. God does not deal with us according to our sins. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love; as far as the East is from the west, so far does God remove our sins from us. As the most loving parents care for their children, so does God have compassion. God binds up our wounds and heals our brokenness. For God knows of what we are made and God remembers that we are but dust.

Silence for reflection and Marking the Sign of the Cross/Imposition with Ashes.

*(You may trace the sign of the cross on your forehead with your finger or with ashes, softly or silently saying, "**Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.**" If there are others with you, then you may do this for each other.)*

Responses and Prayer

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation and healing.

That we may show forth the glory of your love in the world.

By the Cross of Christ, our Savior and Healer,

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

Let us pray together:

Merciful God, accompany us on our journey through these forty days of Lent. Renew us in the gift of our Baptism, that as you breathed into dust the Breath of Life at creation, your Holy Spirit would inspire us to face both our mortality and our living with confidence in Christ, the Crucified and Risen One, who lives and reigns, . . . and because he lives, we shall live also, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!

thou my best thought . . . by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tower,
 thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

A Celtic Blessing & Dismissal

God be with you in every pass,
Jesus be with you on every hill,
The Spirit be with you at every stream,

**Headland and ridge and lawn;
Each sea and land, each moor and meadow,
Each lying down, each rising up,
In the trough of the waves, on the crest of the billows,
Each step of the journey we go.**

Passionately and unconditionally, God loves you.
Completely and utterly, God loves you.
Now and forever, (+) God loves you.

Amen,

Go in peace. Follow the Way of the Cross.

Thanks be to God!



REMEMBER
YOU ARE DUST, AND
TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN.