

Laguna Niguel Presbyterian Church

Ash Wednesday • February 6, 2008

7:30 PM

Tonight's Ash Wednesday Service leads us into the penitential season of Lent—a season marked by stripping away the non-essential and the unimportant, by listening in quietness to the groaning of all creation as it cries out for salvation, by contemplating our own brokenness, and by reflecting on God's gift of forgiveness that comes through his Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRELUDE (7:20 pm)

Suk Choi, Organ

WELCOME

Dr. Randy Steele

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Behold, now is the acceptable time. Today is the day of God's salvation.

People: We gather for the nurturing of our souls and the renewal of our spirits.

Leader: May God continue to guide us on our journey and restore us in the joy of our salvation.

People: We want to lift up our voices and renew our vows to be God's people.

*HYMN 558

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Duncan McColl

ANTHEM

Redeemer

arr. Camp Kirkland

Chancel Choir and Suk Choi, Piano

CONFESSION OF SIN (*Based on 1 Corinthians 13*)

(After each verse is read, quietly meditate on the question.)

Love is patient.

(Am I willing to endure trying people?)

Love is kind.

(Am I thinking or acting unkindly toward anyone?)

Love is not possessive.

(Am I manipulative? Do I use people?)

Love is not boastful or proud. *(Do I love to be the center of attention?)*

Love is courteous. *(Am I considerate, thoughtful, warm?)*

Love is not selfish. *(Am I always insistent on my needs and rights?)*

Love is not irritable or bitter. *(Am I forgiving? Do I keep a record of wrongs?)*

Love delights in truth and righteousness. *(Do I put obedience to God first in my life?)*

Private Confession

ANTHEM

This is Love

arr. David Hamilton

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 11:28-30

Pew Bible, O.T. page

MEDITATION

Dr. Randy Steele

“The Easy Yoke”

The salvation Jesus offers is not one that removes burden,
but one that gives us the right burden to bear

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES AND COMMUNION

Leader: Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you have created us. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and repentance, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

People: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation so that we may show forth your glory in the world. By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord, bring us to the joy of his resurrection.

Leader: Before Jesus was given up to death, a death he freely accepted, he took bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take this, all of you, and eat. This is my body which will be given up for you.”

When the supper was ended, he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to his disciples, and said: “Take this, all of you, and drink from it. This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.”

All: When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory. God of compassion, through your son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve you and one another in holy love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Leader: Those who wish may come forward and receive the mark of these ashes and Holy Communion as a sign of your contrition and your desire to enter into the new life in Christ.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory, forever. Amen.

CLOSING SONG OF PRAISE *You Are My King (Amazing Love)* by Billy James Foote

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Suk Choi, Organist

Lenten Bible Study

Tonight, we enter into the Season of Lent with the Ash Wednesday Service. Traditionally Lent was a time in which Christian believers made themselves spiritually ready for Easter and Christ's resurrection from the dead. Throughout in Lent, we will be looking at the Beatitudes as the call to take on the yoke of Christ. Thus we will come to understand Beatitudes not as an achievement, but as a blessing.

During Lent (February 6 – March 12), the Lenten Bible study will meet in Gard Hall at 7 pm on consecutive Wednesday nights. You may come for dinner at 6 pm, or just for the study, which ever fits your needs. Signups are necessary and available at the Adult Education booth on the patio, or call the church office.

Here are the dates and the themes for each of our evenings together:

Tonight:
February 13:
February 20:
February 27:
March 5:
March 12:

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PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

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|------------------------------|------------------------|
| The Congregation..... | Ministers |
| Dr. Randall Steele..... | Pastor |
| The Rev. Duncan McColl..... | Assoc. Pastor |
| Dr. H. Kenneth McCullen..... | Pastor Emeritus |
| Mary Ann McConahey..... | Admin. Assistant |
| Jeff Crotty..... | Youth Ministries |
| Dr. Binh Vu..... | Music Ministries |
| Suk Choi..... | Organist |
| Janice Ehlers..... | Children's Ministries |
| Stacy Podres..... | Children's Ministries |
| Lee Lee Truong..... | Assist. Music Minister |
| Claudia Vitalich..... | Office Assistant |
| Nacho Calata..... | Sexton |

"Remember God loves you"