

ASH WEDNESDAY
IMPOSITION OF ASHES
FEB. 22, 2023, 7PM



ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

Ash Wednesday
Imposition of Ashes
Feb. 22, 2023, 7pm

Rector: The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks
The Rev. Tom Hughes, Rector Emeritus

(BCP—Book of Common Prayer, H-Hymnal 1982; S Numbers are the service music found in the front of The Hymnal 1982; WLP-Wonder, Love and Praise) LEVAS-Lift Every Voice and Sing II)

In the name of Christ, we welcome you to this Church. May those who sorrow find comfort; the weary, rest; the unhappy, joy; the troubled, peace; the stranger, friends; and to all the sense of God's Presence in this holy place. We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Port Royal, the Nandtaughtacund, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of the Rappahannock Tribe.

Bell Ringing

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from The Prophet Joel, Chapter 2, verses 1-2, 12-17.

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
 for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near--
a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains
 a great and powerful army comes;

their like has never been from of old,
nor will be again after them
in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the LORD,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.

Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the LORD, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged;
gather the children,
even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.

Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples,
"Where is their God?"

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103 *Benedic, anima mea*

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

**18 On those who keep his covenant *
and remember his commandments and do them.**

19 The LORD has set his throne in heaven, *
and his kingship has dominion over all.

**20 Bless the LORD, you angels of his,
you mighty ones who do his bidding, *
and hearken to the voice of his word.**

21 Bless the LORD, all you his hosts, *
you ministers of his who do his will.

**22 Bless the LORD, all you works of his,
in all places of his dominion; *
bless the LORD, O my soul.]**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

A reading from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 5, verses 20b-6:10.

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see-- we are alive;

as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing;
as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet
possessing everything.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks

Invitation to the Observance of a Holy Lent **BCP 264**

Silence

Imposition of Ashes **BCP 265**

Psalm 51, said together **BCP 266**

Litany of Penance **BCP 267**

The Prayer for Forgiveness

The Peace

Offertory

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer A **BCP 361**

Sanctus **S 114**

The Lord's Prayer **BCP 364**

The bread is broken.

Lamb of God **LEVAS 270**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Distribution of the Sacraments

Communion Hymn **Here, O my Lord** **H 318**

Post-Communion Prayer **BCP 365**

The Blessing

Closing Hymn **Eternal Lord of love, behold your Church** **H 149**

Dismissal

Announcements

Welcome to St Peter's. May you find God's love present with you in this place and return here often to worship. The communion bread is gluten free. All are welcome at the Lord's table.

The offering plates are in the back next to the doors. Your gifts help support God's work in the world through this church. Mail- PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535. **and online -** <https://churchsp.org/onlinegiving>

Something to consider—"Lent should never be morose—an annual ordeal during which we begrudgingly forgo a handful of pleasures. Lent is an opportunity—the church's springtime, a time when, out of the darkness of sin's winter, a repentant, empowered people emerges. This is the season to be surprised by joy. Our self-sacrifices serve no purpose unless, by laying aside this or that desire, we focus on our heart's deepest longing—unity with Christ. In him—in his suffering and death, his resurrection and triumph—we find our truest joy." (From the introduction to Bread and Wine: Readings for Lent and Easter.)

Get your copy of Living Well through Lent, 2023, a publication by Living Compass in the back pew. This booklet will guide you through daily personal reflections during Lent and its writers hope that it will help you to practice your faith in a way that is deeply renewing.

St. Peter's Lenten page – <https://churchsp.org/lentatstpeters2023>

The basics of Lent, Lenten Practices, Events, the lectionary, special topics, Holy Week and beyond. ...There is a special section on the Lord's Prayer under education created by the Society of Saint John the Evangelist (SSJE). The monastic order was founded in 1866 in England and is now located in Boston.

- **Sat, Feb 25** – Coldest Night of the Week Walk. Meet at Hurkamp Park on Saturday, February 25th at 4PM to sign in and walk at 5pm

- **Sunday worship, Feb. 26**—.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86999263545?pwd=WHpNa1JrU0J0OGdMV3NMRlhmWUV CZz09> Meeting ID: 869 9926 3545 Passcode: 889278

- **Monday Morning Meditation, Feb. 27**—Mondays at 6:30AM.

Intentionally start the week in God's presence with 20 minutes of silent prayer together.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87980716417?pwd=UHLxNE1JYlQ1TGh6N25oYTBxRURwQT09> Meeting ID: 879 8071 6417 Passcode: 790929

Lent-- A Season of Repentance and Renewal

During Lent, we empty our worship space of some of the usual visual images in order to create simplicity, and as Patrick Malloy puts it, “to foster an interior openness in the assembly and a longing for the glory of God.”

The use of a special processional cross is appropriate. During medieval times in England, Lenten processional crosses were made of wood, and were painted a deep red. Thanks to the craftsmanship of Helmut Linne von Berg, St Peter’s has its own Lenten processional cross, which we will be using during this season.

The ashes that we receive on our foreheads tonight remind us of our mortality. In the burial rite, we commit those who have died to the ground, ‘earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.’ We pray that the Lord will bless and keep those who have died, that the Lord will make his face shine upon them, will lift up his countenance upon them and will give them peace.

We receive the ashes as an outward sign of our penitence as we come before the loving-kindness of God, knowing that only God can take away our sins, create clean hearts in us, renew a right spirit within us, and sustain us with God’s bountiful spirit.

We receive the ashes as a reminder that we live in relation to every other part of God’s creation, and that even in death our relationships with creation and with the creator are being renewed, even as our bodies return to dust.