ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
6TH MARCH 2019

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader : The Lord be with you.

All : And also with you.

PRAYER OF APPROACH

All : We come before God this Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, to hear God's word, to confess our sins, and to ask God to strengthen us in our faith that we might live a life worthy of our calling.

HYMN:

Psalm 103:8-18 (To be read responsively)

Leader: The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.

All: The LORD remembers we are but dust.

Leader: He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the Earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

All: The LORD remembers we are but dust.

Leader: As far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

All: The LORD remembers we are but dust.

Leader: As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him. For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.

All: The LORD remembers we are but dust.

Leader: But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

All: The LORD remembers we are but dust. Amen.

Leader : Let us Pray

All: Almighty and ever loving God we your children humble ourselves before you for you are our Creator. We are prone to sin with our words, deeds and in our attitudes, Forgive us Lord. Make us ever conscious of our calling and trust that you have in us. Redeem us Lord in your mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Let us pray and search our hearts in silence.

Leader: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

All: Have mercy on us, LORD.

Leader: We confess to you, LORD, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives.

All: Have mercy on us, LORD.

Leader: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people.

All: We confess to you, LORD.

Leader: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

All: We confess to you, LORD.

Leader: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work.

All: We confess to you, LORD.

Leader: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

All: We confess to you, LORD.

Leader: Accept our repentance, LORD, for the wrongs we have done; for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

All: Accept our repentance, LORD.

Leader: For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us.

All: Accept our repentance, LORD.

ABSOLUTION

Leader: May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our LORD. **Amen.**

SHARING OF PEACE

SCRIPTURE READING

HYMN

SERMON

APOSTLES CREED

OFFERTORY HYMN/LYRIC

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS (for specific needs of the Church, Diocese, State, Nation and World)

Leader: God of compassion, through your son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself.

All: Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace - both now and evermore.

CLOSING HYMN