



Pilgrim Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Ash Wednesday Evening Service
February 17, 2021
7:30 pm

Music streamed in tonight's service

Lamb of God - arr. Lloyd Larson
Taize - Kyrie Eleison 1
Taize - O Lord Hear My Prayer

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Tonight's service will be recorded. 1

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Prelude

Lamb of God

arr. Lloyd Larson

Welcome and Announcements

Sarah Fuller

Call to Worship

Sarah Fuller and Mairi Morrison

Leader: Getting ready for a journey is never easy.

People: We have to consider what we need, what to take with us.

Leader: Our Lenten journey begins with such introspection.

People: Lord, what do we need? What baggage are we bringing? What are we asked to leave behind?

Leader: Open your hearts to the Lord.

People: Lord, help us look inward with repentance and then outward in service to you. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison 1

$\text{♩} = 100$

The musical score is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It begins in 2/4 time and changes to 3/4 time after the second measure. The melody consists of a series of chords and single notes. The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son. (hum). The final measure contains a fermata over a sustained chord.

Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son. (hum)

58 Shout 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.

2 Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practised righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgements,
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.

4 Look, 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.

5 Is 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?

6 Is 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?

7 Is 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?

8 Then 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 rearguard.

9 Then 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,
10 if 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.

11 The 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.

12 Your 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.

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

- 3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgement.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

14 Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

15 O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

16 For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt-offering, you would not be pleased.

17 The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

16 ‘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. 17But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18so 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. 19 ‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; 20but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Meditation and Invitation to Observe a Lenten Discipline

Rev. Reebee Girash

Time of Silence

Prayer of Confession

After each part of the prayer, the congregation is invited to sing "Give Me a Clean Heart" #188

**Lord, come and help us clear all the debris from our hearts.
Come and restore us to your presence. We have too long ignored
you and wandered from your call. Open our ears, shatter our
self-delusions, push us to see the kind of fast and repentance that
you desire. Bring us back to you, merciful God.**

Give me a clean heart...

*[Give me a clean heart so I may serve you
God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you
For I'm not worthy of all these blessings
Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you]*

188

Give Me a Clean Heart

Ps. 51:1-12

Margaret J. Douron, 1970; alt.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of five systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Give me a clean heart so I may serve you. God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you. For I'm not worthy of all these blessings. Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you." The score is in a key with two flats and a 6/8 time signature.

You ask us to care for the earth but often we try to conquer and subdue it. We have poisoned our life-support systems of soil, water, and air with toxic waste. We have damaged our forests through clear-cutting and acid rain. Our oceans, lakes, and streams are littered with plastic and laced with sewage. We are annihilating our companion creatures at a rapid rate. May we repent and be repairers of the breach.

*[Give me a clean heart so I may serve you
God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you
For I'm not worthy of all these blessings
Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you]*

Nations war with nations so we might have cheap oil. Children die in poverty so we can have lower taxes. Migrant workers poison their bodies and lose their faculties that we might have cheaper food. Bombs kill innocents abroad as we fail to take care to divide enemy from bystander or demand that our government change. May we repent and be repairers of the breach.

Give me a clean heart...

We speak about justice but fail to act when injustice comes to our town or our ballot box. We speak about peace but fail to take our leaders to account when the war drums sound. We speak about healing but sit and watch our uninsured neighbors live in fear or drown in debt. We speak making our lives acceptable to the Lord, but walk away when it gets too hard. May we repent and be repairers of the breach.

Give me a clean heart...

In this Lenten season, when we fear and are doubtful, help us find the strength and courage of faith. When we are lonely and afraid, remind us of your healing love. When we are tempted to do nothing out of apathy or despair, call us to account again. Be with us, O Lord, and heal our spirits. May we work for your justice and be repairers of the breaches in our lives, our communities and our world.

*[Give me a clean heart so I may serve you
God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you
For I'm not worthy of all these blessings
Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you]*

Give us clean hearts, O God. Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

Rev. Reebee Girash

The congregation is invited to practice the imposition of ashes, a reminder of our mortality and the eternal nature of God, by touching the cross of ashes on your card to your forehead or hand.

“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return, but the steadfast love of God endures forever.”

Hymn

Taize O Lord Hear My Prayer

Taize - O Lord, Hear My Prayer

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Ostinato Chorale

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer:
 *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise:
 Se - ñor, ten pie - dad, Se - ñor, ten pie - dad:

when I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O
 all my hope comes from God. The Lord is my song, the
 si te in - vo - co, ó - ye - me. Se - ñor, ten pie - dad, Se -

Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O
 Lord is my praise: God, the well - spring of life. The
 ñor, ten pie - dad: Ven, y - es - cu - cha mi voz. Se -

Last time

Marked by a cross,
cherished and forgiven
We are traveling home.

Called to be holy,
called to be whole
We are traveling home.

Across deserts,
over mountains
We are traveling home.

God in our hearts,
God in our lives
We are traveling home.