



ASH  
WEDNESDAY



FIRST  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
HALIFAX

**February 22, 2023**

**Gathering in the FBCH Sanctuary**

Prayer candles are available in the north transept if you would like to light one as part of your prayer. For more information about the life of FBCH, visit our website: [fbchalifax.ca](http://fbchalifax.ca) or like us on social media.

**Wifi Password for FBCH Guest: youareloved**

## **Prelude**

**Lynette Wahlstrom**

*Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten sein, BWV 641 -J.S. Bach*

## **Summoning Prayer**

**Rusty Edwards**

Grace and peace to you from God.

**God fill you with truth and joy.**

Let us pray in silence for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

## **Silent Prayer**

Almighty and merciful God,  
you hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all who are penitent;  
create in us new and contrite hearts,  
so that when we turn to you and confess our sins  
we may receive your full and perfect forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Hymn (next page)**

# Lord, Who throughout These 166 Forty Days

1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and  
 2 As you with Sa - tan did con-tend and did the vic-tory  
 3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas-sion-  
 4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be

pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.  
 win, O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con-quer sin.  
 tide, yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.  
 past, an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at-tain at last.

Like many of this author's hymns, this text was written primarily for children but works equally well in reminding adults how Lent connects us with Christ's temptation in the wilderness and prepares us for Easter. The 16th-century English psalm tune provides sturdy support.

## **Gospel Lesson: Matthew 16:21-26**

**Rusty Edwards**

*New Revised Standard Version*

<sup>16:21</sup>From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, ‘God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.’ <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?’

## **Lenten Reflection**

**Rusty Edwards**

### **Psalm 23:1-2 (The Inclusive Bible)**

**Rhonda Schofield**

O Lord, you are my shepherd—I want nothing more.

**You let me lie down in green meadows; you lead me  
beside restful waters.**

### ***Sung Response***

***Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy***

### **Psalm 23:3 (The Inclusive Bible)**

**Rusty Edwards**

You refresh my soul.

**You guide me to lush pastures for the sake of your Name.**

***Sung Response***

***Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy***

**Prayer for our Lenten Journey**

**Rhonda Schofield**

**Lord's Prayer (Paraphrase from New Zealand Prayer Book)**

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!**

**The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!**

**Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!**

**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.**

**In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.**

**In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.**

**From trials too great to endure, spare us.**

**From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Psalm 23:4**

**Rusty Edwards**

**Even if I am surrounded by shadows of Death, I fear no danger, for you are with me.**

**Your rod and your staff—they give me courage**

***Sung Response***

***Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy***

**Psalm 23:5**

**Rhonda Schofield**

You spread a table for me in the presence of my enemies,  
**and you anoint my head with oil—my cup overflows!**

**Sung Response**

***Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy***

**Imposition of Ashes**

**Rusty Edwards**

*You are invited to mark your forehead by making a cross with ashes.  
If you do not have ashes, use a bit of oil (olive oil will work well).  
The ashes serve as a sign of penance and a commitment to journey  
with Christ throughout Lent.*

**Psalm 23:6**

**Rhonda Schofield**

Only goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,  
**and I will dwell in your house, O LORD, for days without  
end.**

**Sung Response**

***Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy***

**Postlude**

**Lynette Wahlstrom**

*O Mensch, beweine deine Sünde* Gross, BWV 622 -J.S. Bach