



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 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

^{16:21}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. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.'
²³But 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.'

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.
²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For 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