



DOWNTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



ASH
wednesday

Forgive us for wanting this to be bright and painless and easy, when we know that Jesus did not take the easy way, but chose the path of the Cross. Teach us the true meaning of penitence, so that we use this Lenten season to humbly seek a clean heart and a renewed spirit. We pray in the name Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

The truth is this: God's love and mercy are never-ending. God knows us in our inward being; God cleanses us from our sins and shortcomings, and restores to us the joy of salvation.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Scripture Joel 2:12-17

Scripture Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Reflection

Imposition of Ashes

Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you have created us. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Those who would like to receive ashes may now come forward. The pastor will place ashes on your forehead (or the back of your hand, if you prefer) in the sign of the Cross, saying: "Remember, mortal, that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Music for Reflection

Peace Piece

Bill Evans

Prayer

God of Eternal Love,
We have made our commitment to you,
and have started a new journey into purposeful growth.
But, we know that if we are to remain faithful
we need your help and your strength.

So, we ask:

Teach us to pray with faith and read your word with understanding.
Teach us to worship with passion and gather together with love.
Teach us to give generously,
serve compassionately
and use our time mindfully,
so that we may reflect your goodness,
and that others may discover your grace through us.
In Jesus' Name. Amen.

*Hymn

All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night
(Music may be found on page 7.)

TALLIS' CANON

Benediction (Responsively)

May God, who has forgiven and fed us,
now make us strong for these days ahead.
May Jesus lead us, and we be found faithful to follow.
May the Spirit drive us into the wilderness,
burning away the chaff of our lives,
**and purifying our hearts for all to see
and be blessed.**
And may the blessing of God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
Be with us and remain with us always.
Amen, and amen.

*Charge and Benediction

WELCOME to everyone who is visiting!
We are happy that you are here and invite you to come again.

We seek to use diverse images and liberating language about divine presence in our services of worship. Please feel free to adapt the words in hymns and prayers as needed so that they express your faith.

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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.

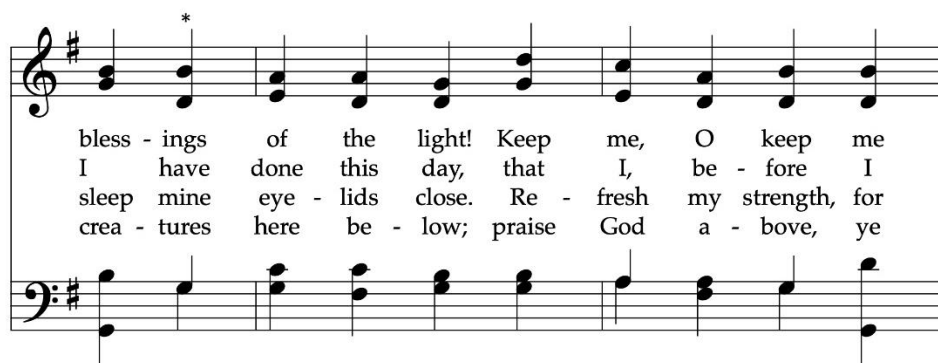
TEXT: Claudia F. I. Hernaman, 1873, alt.
 MUSIC: Day's *Psalter*, 1562

ST. FLAVIAN
 CM


675 All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night



1 All praise to thee, my God, this night, for all the
2 For - give me, Lord, through Christ, I pray, the wrong that
3 O may my soul on thee re - pose, and with sweet
4 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all



bless - ings of the light! Keep me, O keep me
I have done this day, that I, be - fore I
sleep mine eye - lids close. Re - fresh my strength, for
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye



safe from harm with - in the shel - ter of thine arm!
sleep, may be at peace with neigh - bor, self, and thee.
thine own sake, to serve thee well when I a - wake.
heaven - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

**May be sung as a canon.*

Originally consisting of twelve stanzas, this was the bedtime hymn of the boys at Winchester School in England. Now it is one of the best-known evening hymns in English (usually matched with this tune and sung in canon), and its final stanza has taken on a life of its own.

TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1674, alt.
MUSIC: Thomas Tallis, 1567, adapt.

TALLIS' CANON
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