

Ash Wednesday
March 5, 2025
12:00 pm



St Andrew's & Unity
Lutheran Church

San Mateo & South San Francisco, CA

www.unityssf.org

www.standrews.org

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GATHERING

Prelude

Linda Underwood

Greeting

P: From our God who loves us with an everlasting love,
who brings forth a new creation in Christ, who leads us
by the Spirit in the wilderness, grace and abundant mercy
be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Welcome

Pastor John Kuehner

Gathering Hymn

Once We Sang and Danced

ELW 701



- 1 Once we sang and danced with glad-ness, once de-light filled ev-'ry breath;
- 2 All the wil-lows bow in weep-ing, all the riv-ers rage and moan,
- 3 God, who came to dwell a-mong us, God, who suf-fered our dis-grace,
- 4 Come, O Christ, a-mong the ash-es, come to wipe our tears a-way,



now we sit a-mong the ash-es, all our dreams de-stroyed by death.
as cre-a-tion joins our plead-ing: "God, do not leave us a-lone."
from your own heart, grieved and wound-ed, come the rich-es of your grace.
death de-stroy and sor-row ban-ish; now and al-ways, come and stay.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952, based on Psalm 137

Music: KAS DZIEDAJA, Latvian folk tune

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Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors.

Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

WORD

First Reading – Joel 2: 1-2

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
Sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
for the day of the LORD is coming.
It is near - a day of dimness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick dimness!
Like melancholy spread upon the mountains
a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
nor will be again after them in ages to come.

Gospel Verse

P: The Gospel according to Matthew C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel – Matthew 6: 1- 6, 16 - 21

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² “So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵ “And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶ “And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so 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, ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Pastor John Kuehner

Special Music

There is a Balm in Gilead

ELW 614

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,
 2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,
 3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

Refrain

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
 you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."
 and if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Confession

P: Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we take time to reflect in the name of the Creator, the Redeemer and the Sustainer.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: We have sinned against you in thought word, and deed. Have mercy on us and turn when we go astray Bring us back to you as those who once were dead but now have life and abundant love, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Through the Holy Spirit, God gives life, freedom from the power of sin, and resurrection from the dead. In the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Live in newness of life through grace.

C: Amen.

Imposition of Ashes, Dust and the Sign of the Cross

P: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that the dust on our hands be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your grace that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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**Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day
our daily bread;
and forgive us
our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those
who trespass
against us;
and lead us not
into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever and ever.**

Blessing

Amen.

P: May the God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

Postlude

Linda Underwood