

South West Chelmsford Ash Wednesday Service

Welcome! We thank God for his never-failing love and willingness to forgive.

Our help is in the name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

Let us bless the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Opening Hymn: All to Jesus I surrender

Psalm 51, we read together:

Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness;

according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my faults and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and righteous in your judgement.

I have been wicked even from my birth, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

Behold, you desire truth deep within me and shall make me understand wisdom in the depths of my heart.

Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the bones you have broken may rejoice.

Turn your face from my sins and blot out all my misdeeds.

Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me now away from your presence and take not your holy spirit from me.

Give me again the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your gracious spirit; then shall I teach your ways to the wicked and sinners shall return to you.

Deliver me from my guilt, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

For you desire no sacrifice, else I would give it, you take no delight in burnt offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Psalm 51: 1-18

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us and we are called by your name; leave us not, O Lord our God.

Jeremiah 14.9

Bible Reading: Isaiah 58: 1-12

Hymn: You make beautiful things

Bible Reading: Matthew 6: 1-6, 16 – 21

Sermon – David Cattle

Silent prayer

Hymn: Father we place into your hands

Most merciful God, we confess to you, and to one another, that we have sinned in thought, word and deed and in what we have failed to do. Forgive us our sins, heal us by your Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.

This year we cannot share in the imposition of ashes, and so I invite you to make the sign of the cross on your forehead as I say these words:

Surely you are dust and ashes, and to dust and ashes you will return.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:
create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Hear the gracious word of God: Christ himself
bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we
might die to sin and live to righteousness.
Receive therefore his pardon and peace, at
immeasurable cost.

Amen.

Prayers

We say together the words that Jesus taught
us:

Our Father, in heaven
Hallowed be Your name,
Your kingdom come,

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread and forgive us
our sins, as we forgive those who sin against
us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
from evil, for yours is the Kingdom, the power
and the glory, forever and ever, Amen.

Final hymn: At Your Name

This is love, not that we loved God,
but that he loved us and sent his Son.
He is the sacrifice for our sins,
that we might live through him.
If God loves us so much
we ought to love one another.
If we love one another
God lives in us.

The Dismissal Gospel

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Which one of you, having a hundred sheep
and losing one of them, does not leave the
ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the
one that is lost until he finds it?

When he has found it, he lays it on his
shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes
home, he calls together his friends and
neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me,
for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just
so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven

over one sinner who repents than over ninety-
nine righteous people who need no
repentance. *Luke 15. 4 – 7*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Christ gave you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and
follow him;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Copyright © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England,
2000-2006