

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Hymn: I Am Thine, O Lord (**printed**)

Prayer After Communion (in unison)

**We thank you God for your presence
at this Table and for your companionship.
Sanctify the commitments we have made.
Walk with us on our way through Lent,
to the cross of Christ, and beyond into our world.
We pray in the name and Spirit of Jesus. Amen.**

Laying of the Crown of Thorns

The Crown of Thorns, one of the symbols of Christ's Passion, was woven of acacia thorn branches and placed on Jesus' head before his crucifixion at the hands of Pontius Pilate.

"Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him. And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, and said, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' and they smote him with their hands. Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, 'Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him.' Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, 'Behold the Man!'" (*John 19:1-5 KJV*)

The Crown of Thorns is a symbol of Christ's passion for all people. It signifies his willingness to be led to the cross in obedience to God's will and to lay down his life for the forgiveness of sins and our eternal salvation.

***Hymn:** Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights **#108**

***Benediction and Postlude**

Kingsview United Church

505 Adelaide Avenue East
Oshawa, Ontario L1G 2A4
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Ash Wednesday Service

February 22, 2012

Indicates, those who are able, please stand.

Enlarged copies of the bulletin are available in the narthex.

Please ask an usher for a listening device if required.

Words of Invocation (Psalm 51:10)

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.

*Call to the Journey (Sursum Corda)

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: Lent is a journey of deepening reflection and renewal.

At the center of our faith, in the depth of our hearts, Jesus is waiting for us, reaching out to us, inviting us to follow him along the journey that brought him to the Cross.

Prayer of Approach

Loving God, as we enter this holy season of Lent, we ask that You give us the grace and strength to make the changes that will bring us closer to You. Help us to be mindful that You are with us in our every moment, offering Your love and mercy by which we are strengthened for this journey. Help us to travel through this season of self examination, sustained by our awareness of the depth of Your love for us. Help us to be aware of Your will for us; what You call us to do, that we may journey faithfully toward You.

We open our hearts to Your merciful and transforming love, Lord. We seek to follow You. We honour and praise You in the name of Your precious son. Amen.

***Opening Hymn: Cleanse Me (printed on insert)**

Prayer of Confession

L: Merciful God, You know our hearts. You know the sins that we carry, in thought, and word, and deed. Merciful God, You know our hearts. In our stubbornness, we turn from You. In our wayward wanderings into dry spiritual deserts, we turn from You. In open neglect of Your will, we turn from You. Merciful God, You know our hearts. You know the cries of separation we bring before You. Forgive us Lord, we ask, for the ways that we have kept ourselves from You, and from each other. We come before you Lord, seeking to live in Your will; that Your plan and purpose for our lives and the life of the world may be accomplished to Your glory. Merciful God, with humble hearts and minds, we offer more than our words, we offer our lives. With all thanksgiving, we open our lives to Your Holy guidance, that You would renew our spirits, revive, renew and repair our lives, and recreate us in Your image. With repentant hearts, we pray to You in Jesus' name. Amen.

Words of Assurance

L: God is the love that over and around us lives. Take comfort in the assurance that even those things that are hidden from memory, or are too deep for our words are not beyond God's forgiving love. To all who turn from sin in sorrow, to all who turn to God in hope, this is God's word of grace. You are accepted, you are forgiven, you are loved. The proof of God's amazing love is this; while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. You are forgiven. Receive God's forgiving love. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Scripture: Psalm 51: 1-17

(pew bibles, Old Testament, pg.676)

Matthew 5:8

(pew bibles, New Testament, pg.1136)

Choral Anthem: Return to Me

Reflection: Mirror, Mirror

Prayer of Thanksgiving

L: We thank you for the gift of Your grace, remembering Christ's life and death, proclaiming his resurrection, waiting in hope for his coming again. Grant that, in praise and thanksgiving, we may so offer ourselves to You, that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:

P: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

L: Mighty and tender God, in Jesus of Nazareth, we recognize the fullness of Your grace; light, life and love, revealed in words that confront and comfort us, in teachings that challenge and change us, in compassion that heals and frees us. And now we gather at this table to remember and to be filled with such longing for Your realm, that we may rise together and turn our worship into witness, and to follow in Your way. Send, O God, Your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that all who share in this loaf and cup may be the body of Christ; light, life and love in the world. In this hope and as Your people, we praise You. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is Yours, God most holy, now and forever.

P: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (sung) # 959

Words of Institution

Imposition of Ashes

L: Choose this day whom you will serve;

P: we will choose the living God.

L: The road is narrow that leads to life;

P: we will walk the way of Christ.

L: We offer more than words, O God;

P: we offer you our lives.

'Accomplish in us, O God, the work of Your salvation, that we may show forth the transformative power of Your love'