

February 13, 2002 7:30 p.m.

Ash
Wednesday
Service

**FOURTH
PRESBY
TERIAN
CHURCH**

A LIGHT IN THE CITY



Prelude All People Are Mortal *Johann Sebastian Bach*
O How Fleeting, O How Cheating *J. S. Bach*
Man's Days Are Like the Grass *Daniel Pinkham*

**Call to Worship
and Invocation**

***Hymn 76** "My Song Is Love Unknown" *Samuel Crossman*

Welcome

Prayer for Ash Wednesday

Leader: Before you, Jesus Christ, we admit how and where we have underestimated our influence, letting our words or silences hurt, abusing trust, betraying confidences. Lord, have mercy;

People: **Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: We admit how and where we have made a show of our religion, attracting more attention to us and less to you. Lord have mercy.

People: **Christ, have mercy;**

Leader: We admit to where in our lives a vague interest has become a dangerous passion, and we are not sure what to do or whether we are still in control. Lord, have mercy;

People: **Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, if we have looked or longed for an easier gospel, a lighter cross, a less demanding savior, then turn our eyes and avert our longing from what we want to choose, to the one who has chosen us. Forgive our unfaithfulness, and, for our better living, give us not the remedy we desire tomorrow, but the grace you offer today. We ask this for your love's sake.

People: **Amen.**

From Stages on the Way (Wild Goose Resource Group, 2000).

Anthem "Create in Me a Clean Heart" *Dan Locklair*
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy Spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Scripture Lesson Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (page 5, N.T.)

Sermon by Dana Ferguson
WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

**Invitation to the
Observance
of the Lenten Discipline**

Hymn 195 "Have Mercy on Us, Living Lord" (Psalm 51)

The Imposition of Ashes *Those who wish to are invited to come forward in silence down the center aisle to receive ashes either on the back of the hand or on the forehead. Ashes serve as a sign of human mortality and of our penitence and as a reminder that only by God's grace in Jesus Christ are we given everlasting life. Ashes are imposed with the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).*

Prayers of the People

Offering

Offertory Anthem "Valediction" *David Conte*
Leave me, O Love, which reaches but to dust. And thou my mind, aspire to higher things. Grow rich in that which never taketh rust; whatever fades but fading pleasure brings. Draw in thy beams and humble all thy might to that sweet yoke where lasting freedoms be, which breaks the clouds and opens forth the light that doth both shine and give us sight to see. O take fast hold, let that light be thy guide. In this small course, which birth draws out to death. And think how evil becometh him to slide, who seeketh heaven, and comes of heavenly breath. Then farewell, world, thy uttermost I see. Eternal love, maintain thy life in me.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Minister: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Minister: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: ...who forever sing to the glory of your name:
People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

The Lord's Prayer

The Communion

**Prayer After
Communion**

(unison)

**O Christ the Master Carpenter
Who, at the last, through wood and nails
Purchased our whole salvation,
Wield well your tools in the workshop of your world,
So that we, who come rough-hewn to your bench,
May here be fashioned to a truer beauty of your hand.
We ask it for your own name's sake. Amen.**

***Hymn 85** "What Wondrous Love Is This" *American Folk Hymn*

Benediction

Depart in Silence

Worship Leaders

Carol J. Allen, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care
John H. Boyle, Parish Associate
Dana Ferguson, Associate Pastor for Mission
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
The Chancel Choir

The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

John M. Buchanan, Pastor

Elam Davies, Pastor Emeritus

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611-2094

(312) 787-4570; Voice mail extensions: (312) 787-2729; Fax: (312) 787-4584;

www.fourthchurch.org