

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**Ash Wednesday**  
**7:00 p.m.**



**Welcome to the Church of St. John the Evangelist. Thank you for worshiping with us. Whether you are a first-time visitor, a faithful parishioner or a returning friend, please know that you always have a place at God's table. As you enter today, may the gathering of this community strengthen you to take God's compassion and peace to a world in need of both.**

**The Church of St. John the Evangelist**  
**23 Water Street North, Kitchener, Ontario N2H 5A4**  
**[www.stjohn316.com](http://www.stjohn316.com) 519-743-0228**

## **ASH WEDNESDAY AT 7:00PM**

Officiant & Preacher	The Rev'd Dr Preston Parsons
Reader	Rebecca McKay
Singers	Rebecca McKay, Mohan Thomas
Tech Support	Simon and Daniel Guthrie
Organist	Sarah Cardwell

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### **THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY**

Prelude

**Hymn 614**

**Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive**

1. Forgive our sins as we forgive,  
you taught us, Lord, to pray;  
but you alone can grant us grace  
to live the words we say.
2. How can your pardon reach and bless  
the unforgiving heart  
that broods on wrongs,  
and will not let old bitterness depart?
3. In blazing light your cross reveals  
the truth we dimly knew:  
what trivial debts are owed to us<  
how great our debt to you!
4. Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls  
and bid resentment cease;  
then, bound to all in bonds of love,  
our lives will spread your peace.

*Officiant*     The Lord be with you.

*People*       **And also with you.**

*Officiant*     Let us pray.

*The community prays silently.*

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you despise nothing you have made  
and forgive the sins of all who are penitent.  
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts,  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our brokenness,  
may obtain of you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

*People*       **Amen.**

## **THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

*Reader*   A Reading from the Book of Joel.

(Joel 2:1-2, 12-17)

*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 darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness 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. Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the*



*have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see - we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.*

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.  
*People*           **Thanks be to God.**

*Reader*   A Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew.  
              (Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21)

*Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. 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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 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. 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. And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have*



Let us kneel before our Creator and Redeemer.

## **Psalm**

Psalm 51:1-17

*Refrain: The sacrifice you accept, O God, is a humble spirit.*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness  
In your great compassion blot out my offenses.

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

For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight.

And so you are justified when you speak  
and upright in your judgment.

Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,  
a sinner from my mother's womb. *Refrain*

For behold, you look for truth deep within me,  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

Purge me from my sin and I shall be pure;  
wash me and I shall be clean indeed.

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

Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O god,  
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me. *Refrain*

Give me the joy of your saving help again  
and sustain me with your bountiful spirit.

I shall teach your ways to the wicked,  
and sinners shall return to you.

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

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

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice;  
but you take no delight in burnt offerings.

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

### LITANY OF PENITENCE

*All*                    **Most holy and merciful Father,  
we confess to you, to one another,  
and to the whole communion of saints  
in heaven and on earth,  
that we have sinned by our own fault  
in thought, word, and deed;  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart,  
and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbours  
as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been

forgiven.

*All*            **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us.  
We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have  
grieved your Holy Spirit.

*All*            **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the  
pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

*All*            **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,  
and our exploitation of other people,

*All*            **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more  
fortunate than ourselves,

*All*            **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our  
dishonesty in daily life and work,

*All*            **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to  
commend the faith that is in us,

*All*            **We confess to you, Lord.**

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done:  
for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our  
indifference to injustice and cruelty,

*All*            **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward  
our neighbours, and for our prejudice and contempt toward  
those who differ from us,

*All*            **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

*All*            **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

*All*            **Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.**

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 Saviour. **Amen.**

*music for meditation and reflection*

Accomplish in us, O God,  
the work of your salvation,

*People*        **That we may show forth  
your glory in the world.**

*Officiant*    By the cross and passion of your Son,  
our Lord,

*People*        **Bring us with all your saints  
to the joy of his resurrection.**

*Officiant*    Almighty God have mercy on you,  
forgive you all your sins  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
strengthen you in all goodness,  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit  
keep you in eternal life. Amen.

1. Restore in Us, O God,  
the splendour of your love;  
renew your image in our hearts,  
and all our sins remove.
2. O Spirit, wake in us  
the wonder of your power;  
from fruitless gears unfurl our lives  
like springtime bud and flower.
3. Bring us, O Christ, to share  
the fullness of your joy;  
baptize us in the risen life  
that death cannot destroy.
4. Three-personed God, fulfil  
the promise of your grace,  
that we, when all our searching ends,  
may see you face to face.

***If you know of someone who is ill or in hospital, please contact The Rector, Reverend Dr. Preston Parsons rector@stjohn316.com or leave a message with the office at 519-743-0228. In case of emergencies you can contact him at 519-573-7797***

**Rector**

The Reverend Dr. Preston Parsons

**Assistant Clergy**

The Venerable Ken Cardwell

The Reverend Paul Kett

**Rector's Warden** Marianne Mellinger

**People's Warden** David Sapelak

**Deputy Warden** Debbie Sheach

**Interim Music Director** Sarah Cardwell

**Parish Administrator** Rebecca McKay

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