

# Chatham Community Church

March 6, 2019

## MEDITATION

If you have sinned, do not lose hope because of your error. Pray instead. On the other hand, if you have done something good, never presume too much on account of your goodness. Never congratulate yourself excessively. Never look down on someone else for sinning, and remember that when the wayward soul prays and repents of doing wrong, the Lord will raise that person up, as he did Lazarus.

*Aelfric of Eynsham (c. 955 - c. 1010)*

## PRELUDE

*"I Come to the Cross"*

## WORDS OF WELCOME

### \*CALL AND RESPONSE

from Joel 2:1-2, 12-14 and Psalm 70

Leader: The word of the Lord

People: **that came to Joel**

Leader: Hear this

People: **all who live in the land.**

Leader: Put on sackcloth

People: **Mourn and cry**

Leader: Wear it all night

People: **for we are neglecting God.**

Leader: Declare a holy fast

People: **call a sacred assembly.**

Leader: Gather the community

People: **and cry out to God.**

Leader: Make haste, O God

People: **and deliver me.**

Leader: O Lord

People: **Make haste to help me.**

### \*OPENING HYMN #474

*"I Surrender All"*

### \*UNISON PRAYER

**We rise again from ashes, O God, and from the good we've failed to do. We offer you our failures, and ask that you give our lives direction that reflects your work in and through us. Turn our hearts to repentance so that in this season of Lent we can be more fully aware of how we have fallen short and in response turn more completely to trust in you. With hope for the Messiah we pray. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 51:1-17

## MEDITATION HYMN #461

*"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"*

## LITANY OF CONFESSION

Leader: God, we confess we have fallen short of your glory and your intent for our lives.

*Time of Silence*

Leader: God, we confess to you that we have not loved as we ought. We have been impatient with others with whom we could have been patient. We have disregarded those you have called us to serve. We have chosen the selfish way when you have called us to selflessness.

*Time of Silence*

Leader: God, we confess that we have not tended to the care of our souls. We have been too busy to pray. We have been too quick to speak and too slow to listen for you. We have filled our lives with all kinds of noise instead of patiently waiting like sheep for our shepherd's voice.

*Time of Silence*

Leader: God, we confess our need of you. We need your grace. We need your patience. We need your guidance. We cannot see beyond the moment. We cannot worship you as we ought. As we begin this solemn journey toward the cross, we call upon your mercy and your love for our salvation.

*Time of Silence*

Leader: Pour out cleansing mercy; let it wash over us and scrub away our iniquities. Pour out forgiving love; let it come down upon our heads and rinse us clean. Pour out renewing grace; make us holy; make us whole

ALL: **Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

### THANKSGIVING OVER ASHES (unison)

Let us pray:

**Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

### IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*You are invited to come forward to receive the mark of repentance and to pick up a piece of sackcloth to carry with you this Lent as a reminder*

### STANDING BEFORE THE CROSS – A MEDITATION

Fr. Richard Rohr

**\*CLOSING HYMN #446**

*“O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”*

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*\*Indicates to stand, if able*

***You are invited to stay for a time of meditation.  
Depart in silence as you are ready.***

#### **Lenten Evening Worship Schedule**

*Worship will begin at 6:30 p.m.*

March 10 – Dave McGrath preaches at Waltz UMC  
March 17 – Patty Humphress preaches at York UMC  
March 24 – Jeremy Roseberry preaches at Poe UMC  
March 31 – Julie Wertz preaches at Chatham Church  
April 7 – Jim Ellison preaches at Lafayette UMC  
April 14 – Les Buttolph preaches at Litchfield UCC

