



Community Worship

## Ash Wednesday

**Worship Leadership:**

Dr. Dennis O'Hara, St. Michael's College  
Emmanuel College Worship Committee

**March 9, 2011**

Wednesday, 1:30 p.m., Emmanuel College Chapel  
Third Floor, 75 Queen's Park Cres.

### GATHERING

#### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Silence*

#### BURNING OF ASHES

**CHORAL ANTHEM:** "The Reproaches"

John Sanders

"O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I offended you? Answer me!  
I led you out of Egypt, from slavery to freedom,  
But you led your Saviour to the cross. . ."  
Holy is God! Holy and strong! Holy, immortal One,  
Have mercy on us.

### WORD

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 58:1-12

*Silence*

**SECOND READING:** Psalm 51:1-17

*Silence*

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

*Silence*

**HOMILY** Dr. Dennis OHara

### ACT OF CONFESSION

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

**Sung Response:** *Senzeni na?*

*of self*

God of all life, you formed us from the earth, and breathed into us the breath of life.  
You have gifted each of us with the miracle of body and Spirit.

**But we misuse the life you have given us:**

**we abuse our bodies,**

**starve our spirits,**

**and neglect our souls.**

**We have not cared for ourselves . . .**

*silence is kept*

**Sung Response:** *Senzeni na?*

*of creation*

God of all creation, you created us from the dust  
and to the dust shall we return.

You have made us and all your creatures from the stuff of your good earth.

**But we have placed ourselves above all else:  
we have betrayed our relationship with creation,  
squandered the gifts of the earth,  
and upset the balance of life.  
We have not cared for creation . . .**

*silence is kept*

**Sung Response: *Senzeni na?***

*of the world*

God of all peoples and places, you placed us in a Garden of peace and promise,  
and called us to a City of justice and righteousness.

In Jesus you have shown us the Way

– the Way of the cross, the Way of forgiveness and new life.

**But we have strayed far from your Way:  
we have turned our backs on our neighbours.  
Having sowed seeds of fear and greed,  
we are reaping a harvest of hatred and division.  
We have not cared for the world . . .**

*silence is kept*

**Sung Response: *Senzeni na?***

*silence is kept*

**A RESPONSE TO CONFESSION**

**Prayer Stations: Four Experiences of Ashes**

*During a lengthy period of silence (about 10 minutes), begun and ended with the sound of the Tibetan bowl, you may visit one or more of the four Prayer Stations to pray for self, creation and the world, and/or receive the sign of ashes. The stations are:*

*Self: soap – ashes as a sign of cleansing and renewal*

*Creation: soil – ashes as a symbol our relationship with the earth*

*World: fire – ashes as a call to lamentation and intercession for peace*

*Imposition of Ashes – receive the sign of ashes on the hand or forehead.*

**Closing Prayer**

**Faithful God,**

**we bring to you the dusty ashes of our lives,**

**Take our burned out dreams,**

**our smouldering ambitions,**

**our charred and broken promises.**

**Renew our spirits,**

**and grant us newness of life**

**through the life, death, and resurrection  
of Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

**CHORAL ANTHEM “God So Loved the World”**

Bob Chilcott

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

**CLOSING HYMN: VU 105 “Dust and Ashes Touch our Face”**

NEWEL

*You are welcome to stay in the Chapel as long as you wish for meditation and prayer.*

*All are invited to leave in silence.*



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*Giving leadership in today’s service: Dr. Dennis OHara, Worship Committee: Emily Duggan, Catherine Elsdon, Rev. Dr. Fred Graham, Karen Hammond, Rev. Nancy Hardy, Brad Inglis, Heather Joy James, Rev. Dr. Bill Kervin, Melanie Kirk. Thank you to the TST Choir.*

*Cover art: the rose on the Emmanuel College Communion Table, the Rose of Sharon, a biblical symbol of hope and promise (e.g., Isaiah 11:1; 35:2; Song of Solomon 2:1).*