The New Utrecht Reformed Church

9th March 2011

Ash Wednesday

We are a friendly people seeking to share Christ's love, and we welcome you to our worship!

The Reformed Church in America is a fellowship of congregations called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be the very presence of Jesus Christ in the world. Our shared task is to equip congregations for ministry—a thousand churches in a million ways doing one thing—following Christ in mission, in a lost and broken world so loved by God.

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Visit our website: www.newutrechtchurch.org • Vincent La Marca, webmaster

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ASH
WEDNESDAY

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.
And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

God's Grandeur by Gerard Manley Hopkins

"Remember, man, that you are dust
And unto dust you shall return." Genesis 3:19

We invite you to enter God's sanctuary in a spirit of silence and solitude. Listen! Let God speak to you in the silence.

Call to Worship: Joel 2:12-17

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; father the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and his bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

Hymn: *To Be God's People*

Al-might-y Fath-er, give us a vis-ion
of a dy-ing world that needs your love and care.
We see the need, the yearn-ing for a Sa-vior;
in Jes-us' name grant this our prayer.

[Refrain]
To be God's peo-ple in this place, live his good-ness, share his grace,
Pro-claim God's mer-cy through his Son, be his love to ev'-ry-one.

And when we falt-er, be thou our com-fort;
Guide us as your chil-dren that our lives may be
A bea-con in this dark-ness that sur-rounds us,
A light that oth-ers then may see.

Opening Prayer Rev. Young Min Kim

Introducing the Purple Box Rev. E.J. Emerson

The Word of God: Psalm 51

For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion blot out mty transgressions.
Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sins.
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.
Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.
Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

The Word of the Lord. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6 & 16-18

"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret will reward you. And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that your are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees whatis done in secret will reward you.

Meditation: *Ashes* Rev. E.J. Emerson

Stuffing the Purple Box

Solo: *Ashes* Susan Hanyen

Blessing & Distribution of the Ashes Rev. Kim & Rev. Emerson

Closing Hymn: *Amazing Grace*

Ama-zing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re-lieved;
How pre-cious did that grace ap-pear the hour I first be-lieved!

Through man-y dan-gers, toils and snares I have al-read-y come.
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thou-sand years, bright shin-ing as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first be-gun.
A-men.

Benediction Rev. Young Min Kim & Rev. E.J. Emerson

The Lord's Prayer

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME.
THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.
GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD;
AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS, AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS.
AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.
FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY FOREVER. AMEN.