

Evening Worship (posted by 7pm)
February 17, 2021
Ash Wednesday

While in-person Worship services are suspended, Montgomery Presbyterian Church will be recording services. The following is an order of service that you can use to follow along with the recorded service, or use to read and reflect on your own. The service is posted on the church's Facebook page and [on YouTube](#), and will be linked to the MPC website, www.mpchurch.net. Thank you for your cooperation and patience during this challenging time.

PRELUDE

What Wondrous Love Is This

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Elder of the Month: Pam Koester, 322-8810
- Deacon of the Month: Lois Silber, 791-1498

PRAYER

God of thundering glory and wondrous love,
you lifted up Jesus Christ from the earth
to draw all people to your holy name.
Like grains of wheat that fall to the dust,
teach us to die—and so to bear much fruit,
giving our lives for the sake of the gospel,
following and serving Christ Jesus forever.

FIRST READING

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.
Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;

let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.
Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,
then you will delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Rev. Ben Shaw

SPECIAL MUSIC

What Wondrous Love Is This

Joyce Counts

*What wondrous love is this, oh my soul, oh my soul.
What wondrous love is this, oh my soul.
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.*

*When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down.
When I was sinking down, sinking down.
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

On this first day of Lent
we pause, look within
and examine our consciousness.

**Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your steadfast love.**

Where we have neglected prayer,
been apathetic in worship,
found reasons to avoid generosity,
or lacked compassion:

**Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your steadfast love.**

Where we have colluded
in the oppression of those
who become invisible in their suffering,
and ignored on the streets:

**Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your steadfast love.**

Where anxiety has eroded
the gift of Your peace, and where
we have cared too much
about what others think:

**Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your steadfast love.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

As Lent begins, know that God understands
how we struggle to stay open and compassionate.
The invitation is not to focus on our inadequacies,
but on God's gift of grace and love
which transforms our hearts and minds.
That gift is given to us again, here and now.
Be encouraged.

BLESSING AND CHARGE

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all this day, and unto your life eternal. Amen.

POSTLUDE

What Wondrous Love Is This