

ASH WEDNESDAY

Old South Church in Boston
February 18, 2026 ❖ 6 p.m.

Holden Evening Prayer
adapted for use on Ash Wednesday.
Setting by Marty Haugen.

*INTROIT *Cantor and Choir.*

Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. Stay with us now, for it is evening, and the day is almost over. Let your light scatter the darkness, and shine within your people here.

*EVENING HYMN *All sing.*



Joy - ous light of heav'n - ly glo - ry, lov - ing glow of God's own face,
In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the blaz - ing sun of dawn,
You who made the heav - en's splen - dor, eve - ry danc - ing star of night,



you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on eve - ry land and race.
of the light of peace and wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song.
make us shine with gen - tle jus - tice, let us each re - flect our light.



Now as eve - ning falls a - round us, we shall raise our songs to you.
Love that fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry soul,
Might - y God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our way,



God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and light our hearts a - new.
love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us free and make us whole.
lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us on to end - less day.

Text and Music: "Evening Hymn" from *Holden Evening Prayer*, Marty Haugen, 1986

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rachel J. Barton

Please be seated.

EVENING THANKSGIVING *Cantor and Choir.*

May God be with you all (and also with you). Let us sing our thanks to God (it is right to give God thanks and praise): blessed are you, creator of the universe; from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: [Scripture listing]

Reader: The light shines in the darkness—

All: but the darkness shall not overcome it.

PSALM 51 *Choir.*

O faithful God, have mercy on your servant here;
in your love, remember not my sins.
In the waters of your grace, wash me clean of all disgrace;
raise me up to life from death and fear.

I know my deeds, I know my faults and failings well;
I have sinned and broken faith with you.
For the wrong that I have done, my transgressions, every one,
God your judgment would be just and true.

You long for truth, for wisdom dwelling deep within;
teach my heart to long for wisdom, too:
wash me clean and give me voice, so these bones you crushed rejoice;
turn my heart from sin to life in you.

Create in me a clean and righteous heart, O God,
put a willing spirit in my soul.
Let me sing with joy anew the salvation found in you,
singing praise to you who made me whole.

Silence for meditation.

SCRIPTURE: [Scripture listing]

Reader: The light shines in the darkness—

All: but the darkness shall not overcome it.

HOMILY

John M. Edgerton

PSALM 141 *Choir.*

*Let my prayer rise up as incense before you,
the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.*

O God, I call to you, come to me now;
hear my voice when I cry to you.

Keep watch within me, God;
deep in my heart may the light of your love be burning bright.

All praise to the God of all, creator of life;
all praise be to Christ and the spirit of love.

Minister: May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives.

All: Amen.

LITANY AND PRAYERS *Cantor and Choir.*

*In peace, in peace we pray to you:
God of mercy, hold us in love.*

*For peace and salvation, we pray to you: God of mercy...
For peace between nations, peace between peoples: God of mercy...
For we who are gathered to worship and praise you: God of mercy...
For all of your servants who live out your gospel: God of mercy...
For all those who govern that justice might guide them: God of mercy...
For all those who labor in service to others: God of mercy...
Grant weather that nourishes all of creation: God of mercy...
Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from danger: God of mercy...
For all the beloved who rest in your mercy: God of mercy...*

*Help us, comfort us, all of our days:
Keep us, hold us, gracious God.*

CONCLUDING PRAYERS

Minister: Great and merciful God, source and ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live your gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Minister: God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come: your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN *All sing.*

Capo 3: (D) F (Em) Gm



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7) C7 (D) F



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7) (G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (F#) (Bm)
F7 Bb Gm F Dm Gm A Dm



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)
Bb Gm F Dm Gm C7 F



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning."
Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.

TEXT and MUSIC: Natalie Sleeth, 1986
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PROMISE
8.7.8.7.D

CHORAL BENEDICTION *Cantor and Choir.*

Let us bless our God (praise and thanks to you): may God, Creator, bless us and keep us; may Christ be ever light for our lives; may the Spirit of love be our guide and path, for all of our days. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*We invite you to come forward and receive a cross of ashes on your forehead or on your hand.
In doing so, you will be marked with a reminder of mortality traditionally rendered
"Remember, O mortal, that you are dust and to dust you shall return."*

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday—March 29, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Maundy Thursday—April 2, 7 p.m.

Good Friday—April 3, 12 p.m., and 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday Festival Worship—April 5, 7 a.m., 9 a.m., & 11 a.m.