

Ash Wednesday
March 9, 2011

“Would you become a pilgrim on the road of Love? The first condition is that you make yourself humble as dust and ashes.”

~Ansarit of Herat

“. . . for until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

~Genesis 3:19b

Welcome, Greetings,
and Announcements

Rev. Ernest Smart

Call to Worship

Rev. Ernest Smart

Hymn #339 *“Just as I Am, Without One Plea”*

**Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bid'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I
come!**

**Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a
doubt; fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I
come!**

**Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse,
relieve; because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I
come!**

**Just as I am, thy love unknown, hast broken ev'ry barrier down;
now, to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

The Scripture Readings

Rev. Sharon Smith

Psalms 51 (responsive reading)

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

**People: according to your abundant mercy blot out my
transgressions.**

Leader: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my
sin.

People: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Leader: You desire truth in the inward being;

People: therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Leader: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall
be whiter than snow.

People: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

People: and put a new and right spirit within me.

Leader: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your
holy spirit from me.

**People: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a
willing spirit.**

Leader: Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will
return to you.

**People: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your
praise.**

Leader: For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt
offering, you would not be pleased.

**People: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken
and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

Matthew 6: 1-6; 16-21

A Time of Prayer

Rev. Sharon Smith

Meditation

Rev. Carol Cook

Hymn #403 *“In Remembrance of Me”*

**In remembrance of me, eat this bread. In remembrance of me,
drink this wine. In remembrance of me, pray for the time when
God's own will is done.**

**In remembrance of me, heal the sick. In remembrance of me, feed
the poor. In remembrance of me, open the door and let your
neighbor in, let them in.**

**Take, eat, and be comforted; drink and remember too. That this is
my body and precious blood shed for you, shed for you.**

**In remembrance of me, search for truth. In remembrance of me,
always love. In remembrance of me, don't look above, but in your
heart look for God. Do this in remembrance of me.**

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to Communion
Prayer for the Bread
Prayer for the Cup
Words of Institution

Rev. Ernest Smart
Elder John Ferron
Elder Clarence James
1 Corinthians 11:23-26

At this time, you may come to the Table to commune and to have the sign of the Cross marked upon your forehead.

Hymn #197 *“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”*

**Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.**

Upon that cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see
the very dying form of one who suffered there for me;
and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess:
the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

Benediction

Rev. Sharon Smith

“The cross on our foreheads is meant to be a dramatic reminder to ourselves – and it is that. When the minister looks at me and says, “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return,” I know what God did for me. He not only created me, he then poured out his grace upon me in the blood of his son. Me, a bunch of dust! But the cross also stimulates other people’s questions. It provides an unmistakable opportunity – even obligation – to witness.”

- Laura Winner

March 9, 2011



7:00 pm

**Welcome to the members and friends of
The Gathering
St. Andrews's Christian Community
Mount Olivet Christian Church
First Christian Church**