



## **Worship Service for March 2, 2022 Ash Wednesday**

<b>Prelude</b>	Marshall Davies
<b>Chiming of the Hour</b>	Pam Laham
<b>Welcome</b>	Pastor Mak
<b>Centering Moment</b>	Pastor Mak
<b>Call to Worship</b>	Pam Laham

LEADER: You who are toiling and you who are stuck, come.

**ALL: Liberating God, hear our cries for mercy!**

LEADER: You who are lost and you who feel hopeless, come.

**ALL: Comforting Spirit, help us draw near!**

LEADER: You who are angry and you who are hurting, come.

**ALL: Healing Christ, we need you now.**

LEADER: Tonight we come together to remember that we are God's beloved.

**ALL: We are made of stardust.**

LEADER: Tonight we come to express our grief and our lament.

**ALL: The ashes we receive are a witness to us and each other.**

LEADER: Let us come together with open hearts.

**ALL: With open hearts we prepare for the journey.**

**Hymn**    TNCH # 742 "Gathered Here"    Pastor Mak

**1st Biblical Witness**                      Pam Laham & Pastor Mak  
Ecclesiastes 2:9 - 25

So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem; also my wisdom remained with me. Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them; I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had spent in doing it, and again, all was vanity and a chasing after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

So I turned to consider wisdom and madness and folly; for what can the one do who comes after the king? Only what has already been done. Then I saw that wisdom excels folly as light excels darkness. The wise have eyes in their head, but fools walk in darkness. Yet I perceived that the same fate befalls all of them.

Then I said to myself, “What happens to the fool will happen to me also; why then have I been so very wise?” And I said to myself that this also is vanity. For there is no enduring remembrance of the wise or of fools, seeing that in the days to come all will have been long forgotten. How can the wise die just like fools? So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me; for all is vanity and a chasing after wind. I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me — and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish?

Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it.

This also is vanity and a great evil. What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

There is nothing better for mortals than to eat and drink, and find enjoyment in their toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God; for apart from God who can eat or who can have enjoyment?

## **2nd Biblical Witness**

Pastor Mak

The Gospel Of Luke 22:35 - 38

Jesus said to them, “When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?” The disciples said,

“No, not a thing.” Jesus said to them, “But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, ‘And he was counted among the lawless’; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled.” They said, “Lord, look, here are two swords.” He replied, “It is enough.”

**Reflection**                      “Naming What Is”                      Pastor Mak

**Special Music**      “Beautiful Things”  
Mark Vines & Jennifer Woolsey

**Blessing & Receiving of the Ashes**                      Pastor Mak

**Hymn**                      “Just As I Am”                      Marshall Davies

**Pastoral Prayer**                      Pastor Mak

**Unison Prayer**                      Pastor Mak

**Prayer for Conscience and Courage**  
*by Sister Joan Chittister*

**Loving God, lead us beyond ourselves to care and protect, to nourish and shape, to challenge and energize both the life and the world You have given us. God of light and God of darkness, God of conscience and God of courage lead us through this time of spiritual confusion and public uncertainty. Lead us beyond fear, apathy and defensiveness to new hope in You and to hearts full of faith. Give us the conscience it takes to comprehend what we're facing, to see what we're looking at and to say what we see so that others, hearing us, may also brave the pressure that comes with being out of public step. Give us the courage we need to confront those things that compromise our consciences or threaten our integrity. Give us, most of all, the courage to follow those before us who challenged wrong and changed it, whatever the cost to themselves.**

**Invitation to Offering**

Pam Laham

"Plymouth's General Fund"

**Offertory Music**

Marshall Davies

**Doxology**

Marshall Davies

**Offertory Prayer**

Pam Laham

*by Rev. Joanna Harader*

LEADER: God of the journey, we give these offerings in gratitude,

**ALL: rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us.**

LEADER: We give these offerings in faith,

**ALL: trusting that you will provide for our needs.**

LEADER: We give these offerings in hope,

**ALL: knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world.**

LEADER: And with these offerings, we give ourselves;

**ALL: may we live with generous hearts, with open hands. Amen.**

**Hymn**

“Seek Ye First”

Marshall Davies

**Benediction**

Pastor Mak

**Postlude**

Marshall Davies