

Valley Christian Church

Ash Wednesday

March 2, 2022

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The blood of Jesus the Son can cleanse us of every sin. *Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson*

People: **But if we say, "We don't have any sin," we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

Leader: If we claim, "We have never sinned," we make Christ a liar.

People: **And the word would not be in us.**

Leader: Yet if we confess our sins, Christ is faithful and just to forgive us our sins

People: **He will cleanse us from everything we've done wrong.**

(1 John 1:7-10, CEB)

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Forty Days and Forty Nights"

Hymn 179
Verses 1, 3 – 5

Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild
Forty days and forty nights tempted and yet undefiled

Then if Satan on us press, flesh or spirit to assail
Victor in the wilderness, grant that we not faint or fail

So shall we have peace divine, holier gladness ours will be
Round us too shall angels shine as served you faithfully

Keep O keep us Savior dear ever constant by your side
That with you we may appear at the eternal Eastertide

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 4:1-10

Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson

HOMILY

"Every Word Spoken"

Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson

LITANY OF CONFESSION

Leader: Holy and merciful God, we confess to you, to your Son, and to each other our sins by word, thought, and deed—of what we have done, and what we have left undone.

Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson

People: **We have not loved you with all our heart, mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven as we have been forgiven.**

Leader: We have ignored your call to serve both you and others as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ, and we have grieved the Holy Spirit.

People: **God forgive us, Christ forgive us, Holy Spirit forgive us sinners.**

Leader: We confess to you all our unfaithfulness. We confess our pride, hypocrisy, and impatience. We confess our selfish appetites and our exploitation of others. We envy others and covet their worldly comforts. We do not prioritize our prayers to, or worship of, you, and we fail to fully rely and draw upon our faith in you.

People: **God forgive us, Christ forgive us, Holy Spirit forgive us sinners.**

Leader: We confess to you our neglect of human pain and suffering, our indifference towards injustice and cruelty, our false judgments and uncharitable thoughts towards our neighbors, our prejudices towards those different from us, our poor stewardship of your creation, and our lack of regard for those who come after us.

People: **God forgive us, Christ forgive us, Holy Spirit forgive us sinners.**

Leader: By the ashes we are about to receive, mark us and save us. Remind us that we are accountable to you and accomplish in us the work of your salvation.

People: **By the cross and passion of our Savior, may we be saved and show forth your glory. Amen.**

**THE
IMPOSITION
OF ASHES**

You are invited to receive the mark of the cross with ashes upon either your forehead or hand. Please indicate which you would prefer when Pastor Eric approaches you. If you would not like to have ashes imposed, simply shake your head.

HYMN

"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

*Jesus walked this lonesome valley
He had to walk it by himself
O nobody else could walk it for him
He had to walk it by himself*

*We must walk this lonesome valley
We have to walk it by ourselves
O nobody else can walk it for us
We have to walk it by ourselves*

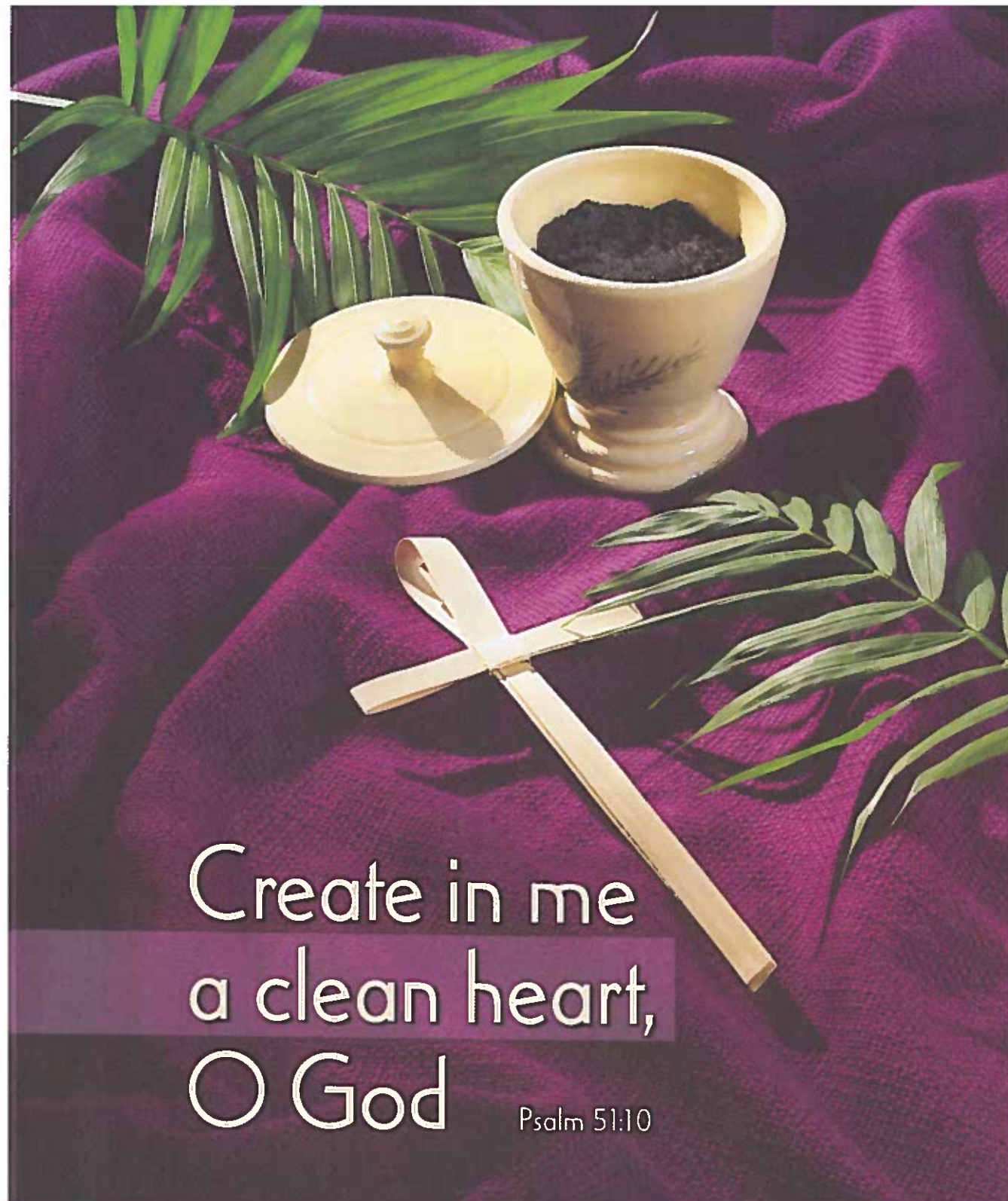
*You must go and stand your trial
You have to stand it by yourself
O nobody else can stand it for you
You have to stand it by yourself*

*Hymn 211
Verses 1 – 3*

BENEDICTION

May the God who returns dust to dust but also glory to glory send you forth to show that glory, and may the blessing of that God be with you now and always, amen.

Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson



Create in me
a clean heart,
O God

Psalm 51:10