Wednesday Service 2015

Marking the Journey towards Easter following Jesus

Wednesday February 18
Main Quad, 1pm

The heart of Jesus – in communion with Abba, given in love, unbending in passion, pulsing with the gift of forgiveness.

(icon by Mario Sanchez)
Activities:

1. Read
   let the liturgy below wash through you

2. Walk
   walk the labyrinth; carry a prayer
   eg the Jesus Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ,
   Son of God, have mercy on me.

3. Feel
   Put you hand into the grain. Feel the texture. Let it run through your hand. Watch as some of the ‘husk’ is separated and blows away.

4. Receive
   Receive the ashes. Reach out your wrists and be marked with ash in the sign of the cross.

Go from here and be fully human,
just as Jesus was fully human.
Love God. Love others. Follow Jesus.
ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY in the Quad

Prayer of Preparation
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God; Have mercy on me. (repeat)

Collect
Almighty and merciful God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive all whose hands and hearts are open: create in us new and gentle hearts, cover us with your full and perfect grace; winnow from us all that is chaff and dead, and nurture us into fullness of life. through Jesus Christ our Redeemer who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.

Reading: Philippians 2.1-11 He Took on the Status of a Slave (The Message, CEV)
If you’ve gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care— then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don’t push your way to the front; don’t sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don’t be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand to others, and think the same way that Christ Jesus thought: Christ was truly God. But he did not try to remain equal with God. Instead he gave up everything and became a slave, when he became like one of us. Christ was humble. He obeyed God and even died on a cross. Then God gave Christ the highest place and honored his name above all others. So at the name of Jesus everyone will bow down, those in heaven, on earth, and under the earth. And to the glory of God the Father everyone will openly agree, “Jesus Christ is Lord!”.

Kyrie
Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Provocation:
We examine our desires — what do we think about most and long for?
We examine our fears — who or what do we define ourselves against?
We examine our wounds — how does our pain separate us from others, from God?
We dare to look into the face of Jesus and see there the truest picture of ourselves.

Prayer made over ashes:
Loving God, you create us from the dust of the earth; and to the dust we shall return. May these ashes be for us a sign of our honesty; our frank acknowledgment of our mortality and tendency for self-deception; in this ash, remind us that the cross of Christ and his resurrection is the balm that brings wholeness to our hearts, our souls and our world. Through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Ringing of bell. Those who desire to receive ashes come forward.
The sign of the cross in ash is applied to the inside wrist or forehead of each person as preferred.

Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.
Look to Jesus and know, God longs for you to be whole.
From dust to dust, through death into life, Jesus says ‘don’t be afraid, choose life.’

The declaration of Absolution:
Through the cross of Christ, God have mercy on you, pardon you and set you free. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Journey with Jesus through to the life that follows a death freely given. God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal. Amen.