

# BEGINNING A HOLY LENT

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Congregation



**Ash Wednesday**  
**February 22, 2023**

*The Churches and Congregations*  
*of the*  
*Ichabod Crane Central School District*  
*Columbia County, New York*

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7:00 p.m.  
Saint Benedict's Chapel • McNary Center  
**Saint Paul's Church**  
6 Silvester Street  
Kinderhook, New York

## Welcome to Saint Paul's!

Please silence cell phones.

**YOU ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF A BREATHTAKING MYSTERY:  
THE PERSONALITY OF GOD.**

*Who knows how God may transform you today?*

*When the ministers rise, please stand as you are able.*

### Salutation and the Collect for Ash Wednesday

Fr. Tom Malionek • Saint Paul's Church

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.  
**People** **And also with you**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **ALL: Amen.**

*Please be seated*

### Reading

Isaiah 58:1-12

Shirley Kelly • Saint Paul's, Kinderhook

*Reader* A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>“Shout loudly! Don't be quiet! Yell as loud as a trumpet! Confront my people with their rebellious deeds; confront Jacob's family with their sin! <sup>2</sup>They seek me day after day; they want to know my requirements, like a nation that does what is right and does not reject the law of their God. They ask me for just decrees; they want to be near God. <sup>3</sup>They lament, 'Why don't you notice when we fast? Why don't you pay attention when we humble ourselves?' Look, at the same time you fast, you satisfy your selfish desires, you oppress your workers. <sup>4</sup>Look, your fasting is accompanied by arguments, brawls, and fistfights. Do not fast as you do today, trying to make your voice heard in heaven. <sup>5</sup>Is this really the kind of fasting I want? Do I want a day when people merely humble themselves, bowing their heads like a reed and stretching out on sackcloth and ashes? Is this really what you call a fast, a day that is pleasing to the LORD? <sup>6</sup>No, this is the kind of fast I want. I want you to remove the sinful chains, to tear away the ropes of the burdensome yoke, to set free the oppressed, and to break every burdensome yoke. <sup>7</sup>I want you to share your food with the hungry and to provide shelter for homeless, oppressed people. When you see someone naked, clothe him! Don't turn your back on your own flesh and blood! <sup>8</sup>Then your light will shine like the sunrise; your restoration will quickly arrive; your godly behavior will go before you, and the LORD's splendor will be your rear guard. <sup>9</sup>Then you will call out, and the LORD will respond; you will cry out, and he will reply, 'Here I am.' You must remove the burdensome yoke from among you and stop pointing fingers and speaking sinfully. <sup>10</sup>You must actively help the hungry and feed the oppressed. Then your light will dispel the darkness, and your darkness will be transformed into noon-day. <sup>11</sup>The LORD will continually lead you; he will feed you even in parched regions. He will give you renewed strength, and you will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring that continually produces water. <sup>12</sup>Your perpetual ruins will be rebuilt; you will reestablish the ancient foundations. You will be called, 'The one who repairs broken walls, the one who makes the streets habitable again.'

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

**ALL Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 103:1-17

Rev. Rudy Visser • Kinderhook Reformed Church

*Read responsively, by whole verse. The People recite the verses in bold type.*

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, \*  
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
- 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, \*  
and forget not all his benefits.**
- 3 He forgives all your sins \*  
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 He redeems your life from the grave \*  
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;**
- 5 He satisfies you with good things, \*  
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 The LORD executes righteousness \*  
and judgment for all who are oppressed.**
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses \*  
and his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.**
- 9 He will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has he removed our sins from us.**
- 13 As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.
- 14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; \*  
he remembers that we are but dust.**
- 15 Our days are like the grass; \*  
we flourish like a flower of the field;
- 16 when the wind goes over it, it is gone, \*  
and its place shall know it no more.**
- 17 But the merciful goodness of the LORD endures for ever on those who fear him, \*  
and his righteousness on children's children.

**Reading**

II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Shirley Kelly • Saint Paul's, Kinderhook

*Reader* A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

<sup>5:20b</sup> We plead with you on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God!" <sup>21</sup> God made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we would become the righteousness of God. <sup>6:1</sup> Now because we are fellow workers, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup> For he says, "I heard you at the acceptable time, and in the day of salvation I helped you." Look: *now is* the acceptable time; look, *now is* the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup> We do not give anyone an occasion for taking an offense in anything, so that no fault may be found with our ministry. <sup>4</sup> But as God's servants, we have commended ourselves in every way, with great endurance, in persecutions, in difficulties, in distresses, <sup>5</sup> in beatings, in imprisonments, in riots, in troubles, in sleepless nights, in hunger, <sup>6</sup> by purity, by knowledge, by patience, by benevolence, by the Holy Spirit, by genuine love, <sup>7</sup> by truthful teaching, by the power of God, with weapons of righteousness both for the right hand and for the left, <sup>8</sup> through glory and dishonor, through slander and praise; regarded as impostors, and yet true; <sup>9</sup> as unknown, and yet well-known; as dying and yet — see! — we continue to live; as those who are scourged and yet not executed; <sup>10</sup> as sorrowful, but always rejoicing, as poor, but making many rich, as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.**ALL Thanks be to God.***Please stand***The Gospel**

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Rev. Beth George • Tri-County Lutheran Parish

*Gospeler* The Lord be with you.**People And also with you.***Gospeler* The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Saint Matthew**People Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

<sup>1</sup> "Be careful not to display your righteousness merely to be seen by people. Otherwise you have no reward with your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup> Thus whenever you do charitable giving, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in synagogues and on streets so that people will praise them. I tell you the truth, they have their reward. <sup>3</sup> But when you do your giving, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your gift may be in secret. And your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you. <sup>5</sup> "Whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray while standing in synagogues and on street corners so that people can see them. Truly I say to you, they have their reward. <sup>6</sup> But whenever you pray, go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you. ... <sup>16</sup> "When you fast, do not look sullen like the hypocrites, for they make their faces unattractive so that people will see them fasting. I tell you the truth, they have their reward. <sup>17</sup> When you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> so that it will not be obvious to others when you are fasting, but only to your Father who is in secret. And your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you. <sup>19</sup> "Do not accumulate for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But accumulate for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

*Gospeler* The Gospel of the Lord.**ALL Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## Invitation to a Holy Lent

Fr. Tom Malionek

*Officiant* Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now humble ourselves before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling.*

*The ministers gather to bless the ashes.*

*Officiant* Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth:  
Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign ✠ of our mortality and penitence,  
that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift  
that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

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## Imposition of Ashes

Fr. Tom Malionek • Saint Paul's, Kinderhook  
Rev. Beth George • Tri-County Lutheran Parish

*Ashes may be imposed with these or other sentences, or in silence.*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Repent and return to the Lord.

Repent and believe the Good News.



**Psalm 51**

*recited slowly, in unison*

Rev. Rudy Visser • Kinderhook Reformed Church

*Leader:*

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your loving-kindness; \*  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

*All:*

- 2 **Wash me through and through  
from my wickedness \*  
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- 3 **For I know my transgressions, \*  
and my sin is ever before me.**
- 4 **Against you only have I sinned \*  
and done what is evil in your sight.**
- 5 **And so you are justified when you speak \*  
and upright in your judgment.**
- 6 **Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, \*  
a sinner from my mother's womb.**
- 7 **For behold,  
you look for truth deep within me, \*  
and will make me understand wisdom  
secretly.**
- 8 **Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \*  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**
- 9 **Make me hear of joy and gladness, \*  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**
- 10 **Hide your face from my sins \*  
and blot out all my iniquities.**

- 11 **Create in me a clean heart, O God, \*  
and renew a right spirit within me.**
- 12 **Cast me not away from your presence \*  
and take not your holy Spirit from me.**
- 13 **Give me the joy of your saving help again \*  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**
- 14 **I shall teach your ways to the wicked, \*  
and sinners shall return to you.**
- 15 **Deliver me from death, O God, \*  
and my tongue shall sing of your  
righteousness,  
O God of my salvation.**
- 16 **Open my lips, O Lord, \*  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**
- 17 **Had you desired it,  
I would have offered sacrifice, \*  
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.**
- 18 **The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; \*  
a broken and contrite heart, O God,  
you will not despise.**
- 19 **Be favorable and gracious to Zion, \*  
and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.**
- 20 **Then you will be pleased  
with the appointed sacrifices,  
with burnt-offerings and oblations; \*  
then shall they offer young bullocks  
upon your altar.**

*Please kneel or sit as you are able*

## Litany of Penitence

Rev. Kathi Jones • Pastor Emerita • First Presbyterian Church, Valatie

*Leader* Most holy and merciful Father:

**ALL We confess to you and to one another,  
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth,  
that we have sinned by our own fault  
in thought, word, and deed;  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

*Leader* We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

**ALL Have mercy on us, Lord.**

*Leader* We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us.  
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.  
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**ALL Have mercy on us, Lord.**

*Leader* We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness:  
the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

**ALL We confess to you, Lord.**

*Leader* Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,  
and our exploitation of other people,

**ALL We confess to you, Lord.**

*Leader* Our anger at our own frustration,  
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**ALL We confess to you, Lord.**

*Leader* Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,  
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

**ALL We confess to you, Lord.**

*Leader* Our negligence in prayer and worship,  
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

**ALL We confess to you, Lord.**

*Leader* Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done:  
for our blindness to human need and suffering,  
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**ALL Accept our repentance, Lord.**

*Leader* For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,  
and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

**ALL Accept our repentance, Lord.**

*Leader* For our waste and pollution of your creation,  
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**ALL Accept our repentance, Lord.**

*Leader* Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

**ALL Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

*Leader* Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

**ALL That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

*Leader* By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

**ALL Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

*Leader* Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who desires not the death of sinners,  
but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live,  
has given power and commandment to his ministers  
to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent,  
the absolution and remission of their sins.  
He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent,  
and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.  
Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit,  
that those things may please him which we do on this day,  
and that the rest of our life hereafter,  
may be pure and holy,  
so that, at the last, we may come to his eternal joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**ALL Amen.**

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## The Alms

Rev. Beth George • Tri-County Lutheran Parish

*Leader* Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:  
As we have heard, the disciplines of Lenten observance consist traditionally in three  
practices the diligent reading and study of the Holy Scriptures; the practice of prayer;  
and the giving of alms.  
We have this evening heard God's holy Word proclaimed. and we have prayed together for  
the gift of contrition, and for the forgiveness of our sins through the merits of the Son of God  
who shares our flesh, Jesus Christ.  
Let us now make a start on the final discipline, of giving.  
We give, not only to alleviate suffering and want, still less to repay or reward others for their  
goodness, neither as an incentive or enticement, but as a sign of God's love, given in the  
name of God by us who know ourselves children of God who makes the rain to fall and the  
sun to shine on the unjust no less than the just.



We give because we need to give — even out of what we ourselves need — so that we ourselves may recognize clearly that all we need is already given to us as gift. Our gift, then, arises out of gratitude and culminates in the greater gratitude of love, which overwhelms sin and sinful inclinations.

What we donate here this evening, in cash or in kind, will be collected and handed over to Catholic Charities of Hudson for the relief of all who, like us, have sinned and fallen short of God's glory, and remain, like us, in need and want of the gracious mercy and abundant generosity of God.

*The people's gifts are collected and brought forward. The Leader presents them before God.*

*Leader* All things come from you, O Lord,  
**ALL We give to you from what has always been yours.**

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## Prayer of Saint Efrem of Damascus

Rev. Rudy Visser • Kinderhook Reformed Church

*There are many different versions of the prayer and great variety in how it is recited.*

*Leader* O Lord and Master of my life,  
take from me the spirit of  
laziness, meddling, self-importance, and the lust for power.  
**ALL Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.**

*Leader* But grant to me, your servant,  
a spirit of  
chastity, integrity, humility, patience, and love.  
**ALL Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.**

*Leader* O my Lord and King,  
grant me to see my own faults,  
and not to condemn others,  
for you are blessed, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.  
**ALL Amen.**

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## Blessing and Dismissal

Fr. Tom Malionek • Saint Paul's, Kinderhook

*Officiant* May you go from this place having acknowledged yourselves as sinners  
in word and deed and in what has been left undone. **ALL: Amen.**

*Officiant* May you know always that God's response to our repentance  
is never less than grace-filled and loving forgiveness. **ALL: Amen.**

*Officiant* May you be given the grace to forgive others  
as God has forgiven you. **ALL: Amen.**

*Officiant* And the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you for ever. **ALL: Amen.**

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord, **ALL: whose mercy endures forever.**

*Officiant* Go in peace. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

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## Readers and Leaders

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*Faith comes through hearing.*  
([Romans 10:17](#))

**Rev. Beth George**  
*Pastor, Tri-County Lutheran Parish*

**Shirley Kelly**  
*Saint Paul's, Kinderhook*

**Rev. Kathi Jones**  
*Pastor Emerita, First Presbyterian Church of Valatie*

**The Very Rev. Tom Malionek**  
*Rector, Saint Paul's Church, Kinderhook*

**Rev. Rudy Visser**  
*Pastor, Kinderhook Reformed Church*

Remember  
that you  
are but  
Dust



RETURN  
to the  
LORD  
YOUR  
GOD

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## Churches of the Ichabod Crane Central School District

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### The Catholic Community of Northern Columbia County

**Saint John the Baptist Church, Valatie**  
**Church of Saint Joseph, Stuyvesant Falls**  
**Iglesia de San José, Stuyvesant Falls**  
**Saint James' Church, Chatham**  
**Saint Joseph's Church, Stottville**

*office:*

Saint John the Baptist, Valatie  
1025 Kinderhook Street  
Valatie, New York 12184  
518-758-9401

<https://www.ccncparishes.org/>

**Father Steve Matthews, Pastor**

### First Presbyterian Church of Valatie

3212 Church Street  
(mail: P.O. Box 267)  
Valatie, New York 12184  
518-758-9658

[valatie.preschurch@gmail.com](mailto:valatie.preschurch@gmail.com)

<https://firstpresbyterianvalatie.weebly.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/valatiepresbyterian>

**Rev. Bill Levering, Pastor**

### Hope Chapel

3429 U.S. 9  
Valatie, New York 12184  
(mail: 14 County Lane,  
East Greenbush, New York 12061)  
518-303-3707

<https://www.hopechapelfamily.com/>

**Dave & Sharon Cramer, Pastors**

### Kinderhook Reformed Church

21 Broad Street, Kinderhook  
(mail: P.O. Box 638)  
Kinderhook New York 12106  
518-758-6401

<https://kinderhookreformedchurch.com/>

**Rev. Rudy Visser, Pastor**

### Niverville-Chatham Center United Methodist Church

28 Church Street  
(mail: P.O. Box 64)  
Niverville, New York 12130  
518-784-5103

<https://www.unyumc.org/resources/church/niverville-chatham-center-umc>

**David Haase, Pastor**

### North Chatham United Methodist Church

4274 NY Route 203  
North Chatham, New York 12132  
518-766-3535

[NchatMethodist@fairpoint.net](mailto:NchatMethodist@fairpoint.net)

<http://www.northchathammethodistchurch.org/>

**Rev. Darienne Gagne, Pastor**

### Saint Paul's Episcopal Church

6 Silvester Street  
(mail: P.O. Box 637)  
Kinderhook, New York 12106  
518-758-6271

[saintpaulskinderhook@gmail.com](mailto:saintpaulskinderhook@gmail.com)

[www.saintpaulskinderhook.org](http://www.saintpaulskinderhook.org)

**The Very Rev'd Tom Malonek, Rector**

### The Tri-County Lutheran Parish

**Saint Luke's Church, Valatie**  
**Christ our Emmanuel Church, Chatham**  
**Zion Church, Athens**  
**Emmanuel Church, Stuyvesant Falls**  
**Trinity Church, Castleton**  
**Saint Stephen's Church, East Schodack**

*administrative office:*

Saint Luke's Lutheran Church, Valatie  
1010 Kinderhook Street  
Valatie, New York 12184  
518-758-6526

<https://www.tclparish.org/>

**Rev. Beth George, Pastor**

*We invite you, therefore,  
in the name of the Church,  
to the observance of a holy Lent*



*by self-examination and repentance;  
by prayer, fasting, and self-denial;  
and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.*

**O Lord and Master of my life,  
take from me  
the spirit of  
laziness, meddling, self-importance, and the lust for power.  
*Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.***

**But grant to me, your servant,  
a spirit of  
chastity, integrity, humility, patience, and love.  
*Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.***

**O my Lord and King,  
grant me to see my own faults,  
and not to condemn others.  
*Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.***

**For you are blessed,  
now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.  
Amen.**