

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

February 22, 2022

Ash Wednesday

We Gather in God's Name . . .

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God.

God sent Christ into the world
not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.

God's love endures forever.

God is our refuge and strength,
a present help in trouble.
Therefore, we will not fear
though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though the waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

God's love endures forever.

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy
you breathed into dust the breath of life,
creating us to serve you and neighbors.
Call forth our prayers and acts of tenderness,
and strengthen us to face our mortality,
that we may reach with confidence for your mercy
in Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN: "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

#78

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, God, by your Holy Spirit open our minds and our hearts,
that as the scripture is read and your Word is spoken,
we may learn your Truth and your Will.
Amen.

READING OF THE OLD TESTAMENT Joel 2:1-2; 12-17 **p. 846**

READING OF THE NEW TESTAMENT Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
p. 5

SERMON "A Time to Reflect and Repair" Pastor Judy Sibley

HYMN: "What Wondrous Love Is This" **#85**

OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
every year at the time of the Christian Passover
we celebrate our redemption
through the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior
Jesus, the Christ.

Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration
and to renew our life in the paschal mystery.
We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for
repentance,

and for the mercy and forgiveness
proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus the Christ.

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes.
This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of
human life,
and marks the penitence of this community.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of Jesus,
to observe a holy Lent
by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting,
by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the
Word of God.

Join me as we bow our heads before God, our Creator and
Redeemer,
and in a time of silence confess our sin.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

Let us pray.

**Holy and merciful God,
we confess to you and to one another
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.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, mind, and
strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as you call us to.
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have not listened to your call to serve as Jesus served
us.

We have not been true to the mind of the Christ.

We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, O God

we confess to you all our past unfaithfulness:
the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,
our self-indulgent appetites and ways
and our exploitation of other people,

we confess to you, O God

our anger at our own frustration
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

we confess to you, O God.

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

we confess to you, O God.

Accept our repentance for the wrongs we have done.

For our neglect of human need and suffering
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

accept our repentance, O God.

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

accept our repentance, O God.

For our waste and pollution of your creation
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
accept our repentance, O God.

Restore us, O God

and let your anger depart from us.

**Hear our prayer, Lord and Savior,
Creator of us all,**

**for your mercy and love are ever present for your
people.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God,

you have created us out of the dust of the earth.

May these ashes be for us

a sign of our mortality and penitence,

and a reminder that only by your gracious gift

are we given everlasting life

through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

*If you wish to receive the ashes as a sign of repentance and
forgiveness, please come forward. Those who prefer not to
receive the ashes, please remain seated in silent prayer
until the imposition of the ashes is complete.*

BENEDICTION

May the God of peace make you holy in every way

And keep your whole being - your spirit, soul and body –

Free of all fault for the coming of our Lord and Savior

Jesus Christ.

Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PLEASE DEPART IN SILENCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We **welcome** you tonight to this quiet service of self-
examination, repentance, and renewal.

Since throughout the Bible, **ashes** are a symbol of repentance
or mourning, receiving them during this service can be a
powerful way of expressing our desire to follow Christ
throughout the forty days of Lent. However, since many
of us did not grow up with the imposition of ashes as a
part of our Christian disciplines, receiving them in this
service remains strictly **voluntary**.

We wish to **thank** our pianist Phyllis Hammermeister, for
playing for us this evening.

Community Lenten lunches start tomorrow! Everyone is
encouraged to attend this short time of fellowship which
begins with prayer at noon on Thursdays during
Lent. The theme for this year is "*The I AM' statements of
Christ*". Soup and bread will be served at NOON, and it
is intended that we will finish by 12:50 PM so that those
who are on their lunch break can attend. February
23rd and March 2nd are hosted by St. Michael Catholic
Church; March 9th and 16th will be hosted by First
Presbyterian Church; and March 23rd and 30th will be
hosted by Pondera Valley Lutheran Church. Please
come!

Please come and support our guest preacher, David Arends
who will be speaking on the 1st Sunday of Lent,
February 26th.

First Presbyterian Church



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