



Central Presbyterian Church
6300 Trinity Drive
Pine Bluff, AR 71603

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Pine Bluff, Arkansas
ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP
February 18, 2015
12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO WORSHIP

John 3: 17; Psalm 46:

1 - 3

One: Let us worship God.

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

One: God's love endures forever.

**All: 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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God,

You despise nothing that you have made and you forgive the sins
of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that
truly repenting of our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, we
may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and
forgiveness; through your son, Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

HYMN #216

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

(UNISON)

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near

a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly;

gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 6: 1 - 6, 16 - 21

"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly

I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

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

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

I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, 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.

Let us bow before God, our Creator and Redeemer,
and confess our sin.

A LITANY OF PENITENCE

**Holy and merciful God,
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.**

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.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have not listened 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.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness:
The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

we confess to you, O God.

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,

we confess to you, O God.

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, O God,
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.

**Favorably hear us, O God,
for your mercy is great.**

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

**Almighty God,
you have created us out of the dust of the earth.
My these ashes be for us a sign of mortality and penitence,
and a reminder that only by your gracious gift
are we given everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.**

*(Those who wish may come forward at this time to have the mark of the cross
made in ashes on your forehead.)*

THE LORD’S SUPPER
INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE
GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe.
You are our God and we are the creatures of your hand.
You made us from the dust of the earth, breathed into us the breath of life, and set us in your world to love and serve you.
When we rejected your love and ignored your wisdom you did not reject us.
You loved us still and called us to run again to you in obedience and in love.

Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with the heavenly choirs
and with all the faithful of every time and place
who forever sing the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

THE LORD’S PRAYER
BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND SHARING OF THE CUP
COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE
PRAYER

HYMN #223 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

BLESSING AND CHARGE
May the God of peace
make you holy in every way
and keep your whole being—
spirit, soul, and body—
free from every fault
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PLEASE DEPART IN SOLEMN SILENCE

We welcome you to today’s worship of God. We pray that it may be a time when the Spirit will draw us closer to God as we prepare for Easter when we celebrate Christ’s passage from death to life.

- If you wish to have the sign of the cross on your forehead, please come forward at that time in the service. You may receive the ashes while standing or kneeling.
- Worshipers who are able will come forward to take the elements of the Lord’s Supper and we will serve others in the pews.

Communion Steward: Dana Neal