

# *Ash Wednesday*



*Central & First Presbyterian Churches*

*Services of Healing, Prayers,  
Holy Communion,  
& the Imposition of Ashes*

*February 10, 2016*

*12:00 P.M. - Central Presbyterian - Sanctuary*

*5:30 P.M. - First Presbyterian - Chapel*

## **WELCOME**

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Lord is our light and our salvation;  
**Whom then shall we fear?**

The Lord is the strength of our lives;  
**Of whom shall we be afraid?**

God is our refuge and strength,  
a present help in trouble.  
**Therefore we will not fear**  
**though the earth should change,**

though the waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.  
**God's love endures forever.**  
**Let us worship God!**

## **INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Leader: Merciful God, whose ways are good and true, we confess that we have not lived as Christ has called us to live.

**Women:**    **We have shut our eyes to evils our world allows.**  
                 **We have sealed our ears from the cries of the suffering.**

**Men:**        **We have clung to the hostility we harbor against one another and**  
                 **hardened our hearts to the creative power of love.**

Leader:      Therefore we pray: open our eyes to see injustice in our world.  
                 Give us courage to resist the powers that oppress the poor.

All: Open our ears to hear the cry of the needy.  
Teach us generosity for sharing the abundance of your creation.

Women: Open our minds to imagine an end to human strife.  
Grant us wisdom to pursue the ways of peace.

Men: Open our hearts to love our neighbors and our enemies near  
and far. Give us desire to embody the compassion of Christ.

All: For the sake of the world, in the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Thanks be to God!

### THE PEACE OF CHRIST

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE READING

### \*HYMN

#### *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,  
calling for you and for me;  
see, on the portals he's waiting and watching,  
watching for you and for me.

*Refrain:*

*Come home, come home;  
you who are weary come home;  
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, O sinner, come home!*

O for the wonderful love he has promised,  
promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,  
pardon for you and for me.

*Refrain*

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

**GREAT 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.**

Therefore, with all of creation, the heavenly angels, and all saints, we join our voices in praise, saying:

**SANCTUS**

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Great is the mystery of faith ...

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Glory to God, from whom all love flows, glory to Jesus who showed his love through suffering, and glory to the Holy Spirit who brings light to the darkest places.

God, our Creator, we are held in your everlasting arms.  
Jesus, our Savior, we are healed by your wounded hands.  
Holy Spirit, be present as we reach out to one another in love.

## **PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day, our daily bread,  
and, forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

### **THE STORY**

Friends, these are the gifts of God for the people of God.  
Let us keep the feast.

## **COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE, IMPOSITION OF ASHES, & PRAYERS OF HEALING**

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

We cannot measure how you heal, or answer every sufferer's prayer. Yet we believe your grace responds where faith and doubt unite to care.

Watch now, dear Lord, with those who wake or watch or weep tonight, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend your sick ones, O Lord Christ; rest your weary ones, bless your dying ones, soothe your suffering ones, pity your afflicted ones, shield your joyous ones, and all for your love's sake. Amen.

## **\*HYMN**

***God Be With You Till We Meet Again***

***(Sing 2 times)***

***God be with you till we meet again,  
By His counsels guide, uphold you,  
With His sheep securely fold you,  
God be with you till we meet again.***

## **\*CHARGE & BLESSING**