

Ash Wednesday



Central Presbyterian Church

*A Service of Healing, Prayers,
The Application of Ashes,
& The Lord's Supper*

Worship Leader: Rev. Jai D. Kwak

February 22, 2023

6:00 P.M.

PRELUDE

GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND INVITATION TO LENTEN DISCIPLINE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

FROM PSALMS 51

Pastor: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

People: and put a new and right spirit within me.

Pastor: Do not cast me away from your presence,

People: and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

Pastor: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

People: and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips,

People: and my mouth will declare your praise.

*HYMN 612

WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD

1 We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

2 We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.

When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

3 With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.

With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

CALL TO CONFESSION

WE PAUSE HERE TO EXAMINE OUR LIVES, OUR TEMPTATIONS AND THE WAYS WE HAVE FALLEN SHORT BEFORE OUR GOD. LET US CONFESS OUR SINS TOGETHER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, as we wander through this wilderness with Jesus, examining all the worldly comforts we turn to during times of stress and struggle, we confess the neglect of our faith. We confess all that we place above you, making idols of money, earthly power, and even food. Empty us this Lent, Holy God. Guide us in our spiritual practices so we can leave this wilderness season more aware of your presence and the ways our faith can sustain us. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

EZEKIEL 36:25-27

Hear the promise of God: “I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you will be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my laws and be careful to observe my ordinances.”

Friends, the promises of God are true:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross

that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Live now as new people, free to love God and neighbor.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING *2 Corinthians 5:20–6:10 (ESV)*

5 ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made

him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6 Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. **2** For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. **3** We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, **4** but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, **5** beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; **6** by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; **7** by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; **8** through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; **9** as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; **10** as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

MEDIATION “LENT: AN INVITATION TO REPENTANCE”

- LORD’S TABLE -

INVITATION

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. (...)

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

**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, hosanna in the highest.

We praise you that you sent Jesus to capture us with your love.(...)

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Thank you, for the gift of this table set as a sign of your Kingdom in our midst.
Come now, Holy Spirit, and move among us
that we might perceive your presence and our union with all the saints of all times
and places as we partake of this covenant meal of your Dominion.
We offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice, devoted to following you
and praying for the hungry world you call us to serve as your body . . .

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BREAKING THE BREAD & LIFTING THE CUP

Is not the bread we break a sharing in the body of Christ?

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, gracious God, for the gift of life. Thank you for Christ and his indwelling Spirit among us. Help us discipline ourselves to walk in the Way of the Lord, that we might serve all of creation in love, to the glory of God, Christ, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

SENDING

***HYMN# 39**

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

*1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.*

Refrain:

*Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

*2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]*

*3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]*

***BENEDICTION AND CHARGE**

***POSTLUDE**