

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 14, 2024

6:00 P.M.

PRELUDE

GREETINGS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND INVITATIONS TO LENTEN DISCIPLINE

***CALL TO WORSHIP JOEL 2:1-2, 12-14**

***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!**

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**PASTOR: CREATOR GOD, YOU FASHIONED US OUT OF DUST,
BREATHING YOUR SPIRIT INTO US, SO WE MIGHT SING YOUR PRAISE.**

**ALL : BUT WE HAVE DENOUNCED YOUR GIFT OF LIFE IN ORDER
TO BE OUR OWN GODS, CLINGING TO DEATH-DEALING IDOLS OF
OUR OWN MAKING.**

**WE HAVE DENIED OUR CREATURELY STATUS, SEEKING TO LORD
IT OVER THOSE WE LABEL “LESS-THAN.”**

**WE SQUELCH ALL WHO ARE DIFFERENT THROUGH IGNORING,
BELITTLING, MURDERING, AND BOMBING.**

WE BELIEVE SURVIVAL-OF-THE-FITTEST LIES, DISCOUNTING THE WEAK, AND PROFITING BY OTHERS' PAIN.

PASTOR: NOT TRUSTING IN YOUR PROVIDENCE, WE STOP OUR EARS TO CRIES OF THOSE IN NEED BECAUSE WE'RE AFRAID WE WON'T HAVE ENOUGH.

ALL : WE HAVE BEEN UNFAITHFUL STEWARDS, O LORD. WE LIVE IN A STATE OF SIN AMONG A PEOPLE OF SIN.

PASTOR: SAVE FOR YOUR GRACE, WE PERISH. REMEMBER OUR MAKING, CREATOR GOD; REMEMBER WE ARE DUST.

ALL: HAVE MERCY ON US ACCORDING TO YOUR LOVING KINDNESS. BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO US ONCE MORE, SO WE MIGHT BE THE PEOPLE YOU CREATED US TO BE. RESTORE UNTO US THE JOY OF YOUR SALVATION THAT WE MIGHT DO JUSTICE, LOVE KINDNESS, AND WALK HUMBLY WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, IN WHOSE NAME WE PRAY, AMEN.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

THOSE WHO SO DESIRE MAY COME FORWARD TO RECEIVE AN IMPOSITION OF ASHES AS A SIGN OF PENITENCE NOT ONLY FOR OUR INDIVIDUAL SIN, BUT ALSO IN RECOGNITION OF OUR COMPLICITY IN THE SIN OF THE WORLD

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

EZEKIEL 36:25-27

Pastor: 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:

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Pastor: He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross

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

Pastor: 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

Psalm 103:1–22 (ESV)

- 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 who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
- ⁴ who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
- ⁵ who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.
- ⁶ The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all who are oppressed.
- ⁷ He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.
- ⁸ The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- ⁹ He will not always chide,

nor will he keep his anger forever.
10 He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
12 as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
13 As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.
14 For he knows our frame;
he remembers that we are dust.
15 As for man, his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field;
16 for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.
17 But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on
those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,
18 to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.
19 The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,
and his kingdom rules over all.
20 Bless the LORD, O you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his word,
obeying the voice of his word!
21 Bless the LORD, all his hosts,
his ministers, who do his will!
22 Bless the LORD, all his works,
in all places of his dominion.
Bless the LORD, O my soul!

- 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