

Community Presbyterian Church  
open hearted, open minded

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ASH  
WEDNESDAY

February 17, 2021

*Welcome to worship this evening!*

*Bulletin Cue: **Bold** indicates congregational response.*

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD OF GOD

### PRELUDE

#### WELCOME AND INVITATION TO LENT

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season in the church year known as Lent. Lent is a time to prepare for the celebration of Easter and to renew our life in the mystery of the earthly journey of Jesus Christ.

**We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed by Jesus Christ.**

**We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes, a biblical symbol of mourning and penitence.**

**This ancient sign speaks of the fragility of human life,**

**And teaches of loss and renewal within the community of faith.**

I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent, to pray for peace within and to plant seeds of peace in our world, by works of love, and by reading and pondering the Word of God.

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

From dust we came, and to dust we shall return.

**While we are here, we worship the living God.**

We have nothing and yet possess everything.

**We are dying, and yet we are alive!**

1 \*Dear Lord and Fa-ther of man-kind, for-give our fool-ish  
5 Breathe through the heats of our de-sire thy cool-ness and thy

ways; re-clothe us in our right-ful mind, in  
balm; let sense be dumb, let flesh re-tire; speak

pur-er lives thy ser-vice find, in deep-er rev-erence, praise.  
through the earth-quake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm!

## CALL TO CONFESSION

In the name of Christ, I urge you:

Be reconciled to God. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

## CONFESSION

**Create in us a clean heart, O God,**

**And put a new and right spirit within us.**

**Cast us not away from your presence,**

**and restore in us the joy of your salvation.**

**From dust we came and to dust we shall return.**

**While we are here, O God, forgive us our sins,**

**and teach us to use every minute from our birth to our grave**

**for the peace of the world and the glory of your reign.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Listen, the time has come at last. Look, now is the day of salvation! In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God.**

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Merciful God, your Word is our way of truth and life. Create in us hearts that are clean and put your Holy Spirit within us, so that we may receive your grace and declare your praise forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 58:6-12

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

## GOSPEL READING

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### Concerning Almsgiving

“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.

### Concerning Prayer

“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.

### Concerning Fasting

“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.

### Concerning Treasures

“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.

We proclaim Christ crucified - the wisdom and the power of God. **Thanks be to God.**

MEDITATION

Pastor Jan

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

### 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.

*You are invited to share the imposition of ashes with those present with you at home, or to place them on your own forehead. Please join me in repeating each time:*

**Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.**

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
That we may show forth your glory in the world.  
By the cross and passion of our Savior, bring us with all your saints  
to the joy of Christ's resurrection. **Amen**

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 51 adapted from Nan Merrill, *Psalms for Praying*  
Have mercy on me, Gracious One, according to your love,  
and in your abundant kindness, forgive me  
where my thoughts and deeds have hurt others.

**Lead me in paths of justice; guide me in paths of peace.**

Teach me to know my own weaknesses and sins,  
the unloving ways that hide your life in me,  
for I keep company with fear, and dwell in ignorance.

**Yet I was brought forth in love and love is my birthright.**

You have placed your truth in my inmost being;  
therefore, teach me the wisdom of the heart.  
Cleanse me so that your light may shine through me,  
and transform my weakness into strength.

**Do not look on my past mistakes but on my true heart's desires.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.  
Enfold me with your Holy Spirit, and  
restore in me the joy of your saving grace.

**Give me the courage of a renewed spirit  
and then I will teach others your ways,**

Deliver me from society's addictions,  
and keep temptation far from me;  
so I may tell of your justice and mercy.

**Open my lips and my mouth will declare your praise.**

For you do not want sacrifice; you delight in friendship.  
The best sacrifice is a humble spirit;  
a repentant and contrite heart you will not despise.

**Therefore receive our gratitude and love.**

Let the nations turn from war  
and encourage one another as good neighbors do.  
Melt our hearts of stone,  
and break through the fears that lead us into shadow.

**Guide our steps in the way of peace.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, our Savior, **hear our prayer.**

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;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE**

CLOSING HYMN GTG 824 There Is a Place of Quiet Rest

vs. 1 and 3

# There Is a Place of Quiet Rest 824

## Near to the Heart of God



1 There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God,  
3 There is a place of full release, near to the heart of God,



a place where sin cannot molest, near to the heart of God.  
a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God.

### *Refrain*



O Je - sus, blest Re - deem - er, sent from the heart of God,



hold us, who wait before thee, near to the heart of God.

### CHARGE AND BLESSING

May the God of peace lead us now from death to life,  
from falsehood to truth, from despair to hope, from fear to trust.  
May Christ who came to reconcile us to God and each other  
lead us from hate to love, and from war to peace.  
May the Spirit of restoration bring peace to fill our hearts,  
peace to fill our world, peace to fill our universe. **Amen**

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace to live and love in peace. **Amen**

Depart in silence.