

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded



L'isle

Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Welcome to worship this evening!

Bulletin Cues: **Bold** indicates congregational response,
* indicates please stand, if able.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

“Even now, declares the Lord, return to me with all your heart.” (Joel 2:12)

Roll up your sleeves.

Let down your guard.

Come in from the storm.

Make yourself at home.

Pull up to the table.

Release the tension in your jaw.

Take a deep breath.

Return to God

with all your heart.

May it be so.

OPENING HYMN GTG 847

Our Hope, Our Life

all verses



1 Our hope, our life are in the Lord, the God we
2 Some flaunt their gold; some trust its power, but what they
3 Though wealth or learn - ing may be ours, or fame that
4 Be - yond this age of shame and sham we glimpse a



hon - or and con - fess. Why crave re - nown or
cher - ish will de - cay; and still the ran - som
spreads through - out the land, the shack - les of mor -
bet - ter des - ti - ny: the Lord will lift us



op - u - lence? They fade, those things we now pos - sess.
for a soul re - mains a price too great to pay.
tal - i - ty pre - vent so much that we have planned.
free from death to dwell in praise e - ter - nal - ly.

CALL TO CONFESSON

Lent can sometimes get a negative reputation. It's viewed as the season in our faith when we give things up, we prepare for the worst. However, I cannot help but imagine that God wants more for us than just six weeks of discipline or six weeks without chocolate. I cannot help but imagine that God wants a life for us so expansive that faith, joy, and hope flow over the edges. So let us confess, not because we have to suffer our way through Lent, but because the truth moves us one step closer to that expansive faith. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSON AND WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Holy God, I confess: I don't return to you fully.

Liturgist

I share with you the pieces of my life that are convenient.

I put on different hats in different rooms.

I forget that I am called, invited, and loved with all that I am—

including my mess, my beauty, my faith, and my doubt.

Forgive me, and give me a heart that longs to return.

Friend, God sees you. God hears you. God loves you. You are forgiven and claimed with all that you are. Rest in that good news.

Thanks be to God, Amen.

Holy God, we confess: we don't return to you fully.

We share with you the pieces of our lives that are convenient.

We put on different hats in different rooms.

We forget that we are called, invited, and loved with all that we are—including our mess, our beauty, our faith, and our doubt.

Forgive us, and give us hearts that long to return.

Friends, God sees you. God hears you. God loves you. You are forgiven and claimed with all that you are. Rest in that good news.

Thanks be to God. Amen

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving Creator, we are here, telling stories of dust.

We are here, trying to shake the dust out of our ears
so that we might hear you clearly.

We are here, hoping that showing up is the first step in returning to you.

Scoop us up in your embrace and carry us to a place of truth.

Clear the smog that makes it hard to see.

Clear the dust that makes it hard to hear.

We are at the edge of our seats.

We are listening for you.

Amen

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love,

truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

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.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

MEDITATION

Pastor Jan

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in an expansive love
that healed the sick,
welcomed the children,
and saw this world as it could be.**
**We believe that that expansive love
runs over the edges of our lives,
smoothing our rough places,
and pulling us home.**
**We call that expansive love
Yahweh and Mother God,
Jesus and Divine Creator.**
**Thanks be to God for a
Love like that. Amen.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God, you created us out of the dust of the earth,
which is also the dust of the stars.

May these ashes be a sign of our mortality,
but also the reminder that we are part of your amazing creation,
and that by your gracious gift we receive everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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.

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 834

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G clef, 3/4 time, and B-flat key signature. The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below each staff. The first two staves contain the first two lines of the hymn. The third staff contains the third line, and the fourth staff contains the fourth line. The fifth staff contains the fifth line, and the sixth staff contains the sixth line.

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand; lead me on, help me
2 When my way grows drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger

stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
near; when my life is al - most gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I

light; take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
fall; take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Lord Bless You
by Earl Fred Morris

CPC Choir

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to live and love in peace. Amen

Depart in silence.

Serving in Worship Today

Guest Pianist

Judy Kereakos

Liturgist

Mark Neville

Special Music

CPC Choir

IT Support

Louis Bouchard