

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

February 14, 2024

Ash Wednesday

Welcome to worship this evening!

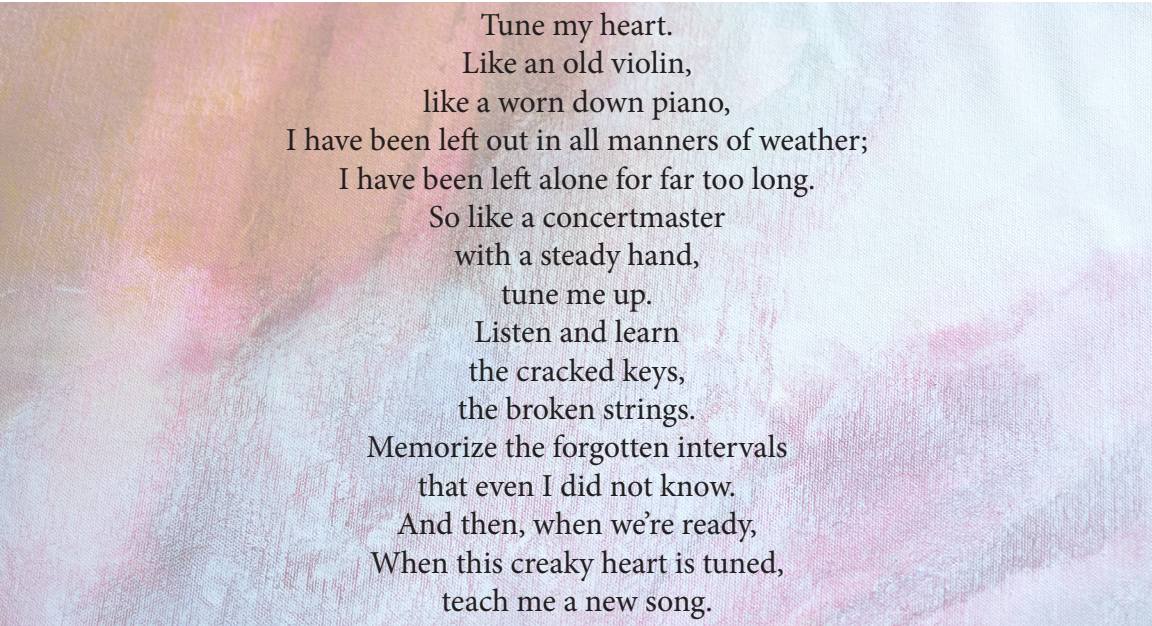
Bulletin Cues: **Bold** indicates congregational response, * indicates please stand, if able

Preacher: Pastor Carla Nelson, Pianist: Glenna Muir, Liturgist: Carol Jones

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

OPENING WORDS AND MEDITATION



Tune my heart.
Like an old violin,
like a worn down piano,
I have been left out in all manners of weather;
I have been left alone for far too long.
So like a concertmaster
with a steady hand,
tune me up.
Listen and learn
the cracked keys,
the broken strings.
Memorize the forgotten intervals
that even I did not know.
And then, when we're ready,
When this creaky heart is tuned,
teach me a new song.

As we begin the season of Lent, let us turn inward and tune our hearts. Before an orchestra plays together, they must all tune their instruments—the cacophony of this process may be very loud and create lots of dissonance, but it's a necessary step in the process of creating harmonies and melodies. And so, this Lent, how can you tune the instrument of your heart so that it aligns with God?



1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 51:1-17

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.

**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you, you alone, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.**

Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

**Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

**Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

**Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.**

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

For you have no delight in sacrifice;

if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

**The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

REFLECTION

Pastor Carla

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Lent is a time for us to return to our Creator who formed us from the dust of the earth.

Our lives are finite, so we want to spend every precious moment in tune with God, living whole, abundant lives—the kind of lives we were created to lead. And so in recognition of our origins in the earth, in acknowledgment of our finite days, we come to receive ashes and remember: dust we are, and to dust we shall return.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*CLOSING HYMN GTG

Take My Life and Let It Be

1 Take my life and let it be con - se - crat - ed,
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly,
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would

Lord, to thee. Take my mo - ments and my days; let them
 of thy love. Take my feet and let them be swift and
 for my King. Take my lips and let them be filled with
 I with - hold. Take my in - tel - lect and use ev - ery

flow in end - less praise, let them flow in end - less praise.
 beau - ti - ful for thee, swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 mes - sag - es from thee, filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
 power as thou shalt choose, ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.

BENEDICTION

Beloved wanderer, as you leave this place, may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve. May you look for God in every face. May you find the courage to get out of the boat, to run to the tomb, and to speak of your faith. And when the world falls apart, may you hear God's voice deep within, saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid." You are called. You are blessed. In both your ups and your downs, you always belong to God. Go now in peace. Go trusting that good news.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE