



March 2, 2022

5:30 PM

ASH WEDNESDAY

MUSIC FOR GATHERING Various Hymn tunes

Read and reflect on Psalm 51 quietly upon entering the sanctuary.

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.

Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then you will delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: For just such a time as this, we were made. In the image of God, loving, grace-giving, and wise, we are created to be the hands. Hearts, and feet of divinity.

People: **We gather on this Ash Wednesday, not because we must, not to build ourselves up, but to start out on the trail leading to the resurrection.**

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Gracious God,
Out of your love and mercy, you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of tenderness, and strengthen us to face our mortality, that we may reach with confidence for your mercy. In Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN NO. 205 (*Glory to God* hymnal) Live in Charity *Ubi caritas*

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 6:1-6

HYMN NO. 415 (*Glory to God* hymnal) Come Ye Sinners Poor and Needy
(*stanzas 1 through 3*) *Restoration*

CONFESSION

All: We confess that we are both broken and beautiful. We confess a God of love who gives us the freedom to choose love or evil. Sometimes we choose evil and we are deeply sorry. Sometimes in our deepest despair the light of hope breaks through. With these ashes we receive and announce the forgiveness of God. We believe the light. We believe love.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Psalm 103:8-14

MEDITATIVE PRAYER**

A Time of Turning Round

Truly dust we are, and to dust we shall return;
and truly yours we are, and to you we shall return.
Help this to be a time of turning round and beginning again.

Through the forty days of Lent, help us to follow you
and to find you: in the discipline of praying
and in the drudgery of caring -
in whatever we deny ourselves,
and whatever we set ourselves to learn or do.

Help us to discover you
in our loneliness and in community,
in our emptiness and our fulfilment,
in our sadness and our laughter.

Help us to find you when we ourselves are lost.

Help us to follow you on the journey to Jerusalem
to the waving palms of the people's hope,
to their rejection, to the cross and empty tomb.
Help us to perceive new growth amid the ashes of the old.
Help us, carrying your cross, to be signs of your Kingdom. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

***HYMN NO. 80** (blue hymnal) Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley *Lonesome Valley*

IMPOSITION OF ASHES (*The people uniting.*)

All: All who would be marked with the ashes of humility of life, come now. Let us go forth, both marked and freed to serve our neighbor, to loose the bonds of injustice, and to shine God's light in the darkness.

As you exit, you may pause at the door to receive your ashes.

Special thanks to Ibbie Muntz for providing our music this evening.

**Written by Jan Sutch Pickard
in *Traveling to Easter with Jesus as our Guide*,
posted on the website of Patmos Abbey-The Order of Saint Columba.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“Where Faith and Life Connect”

6500 Northshore Drive, Knoxville TN 37919

Telephone (865) 584-3957 Fax (865) 584-8840

www.wpcknox.org

Rev. Gradye Parsons, Parish Associate

Rev. John Linton Muntz, Parish Associate Emeritus

Peter Van Eenam, Organist and Choirmaster

Barbara Adamcik, Director of Youth and Connectional Ministries

Allie Brewington, Director of Children’s Ministries

Mary Boyd, Education Coordinator

Renee Wieseuegel, Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Melissa Everett, Administrative Assistant

Debbie Bendy, *Abbey* Editor

LENTEN DAILY DEVOTIONALS are available on the table in the Narthex.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: A special offering will be collected during the Season of Lent. Through this long standing, ecumenical effort, Presbyterians share God’s love through ministries that provide relief to those affected by disasters, food for the hungry and support toward the self-development of poor and oppressed communities.

- 32% Restoring Hope (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) Working alongside communities as they recover and find hope after natural or human-caused disasters.
- 36% Reducing Hunger (Presbyterian Hunger Program) Supporting initiatives that create sustainable food systems and alleviate root cases of poverty so all may be fed.
- 32% Partnering in Progress (Self Development of People) Providing resources and education to oppressed and disadvantaged communities working to overcome poverty and injustice through initiatives they own and directly benefit from.

THE SESSION

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Janet Drumm

Colleen Manrod

Charlie Mercer

Leslie Versen

Youth Elder: Sophia Manrod

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William Milam

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