

Memorial Presbyterian Church

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2018

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

* CALL TO WORSHIP

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

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

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

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

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made – and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God our Redeemer, we confess that we are people of ashes and dust. We want you to notice our humility, but we fail to notice neighbors in need, We want you to show us your mercy, but we fail to show mercy to others. Forgive us, God of grace. Cleanse our hearts and renew our spirits so that we may know once again the joy of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Time of silent reflection)

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

He gave power to His disciples to declare and pronounce to His people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. I declare to you, therefore, that God forgives your sins and cleanses you from every kind of wrong.

Thanks be to God for his love and mercy.

* HYMN:

Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

Hymnal, No. 415

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 58:1-12

Page No. 600

PSALM 51:1-17 Spoken Responsively

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse
me from my sin.**

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

Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgment.

**Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my
mother's womb.**

For behold, you look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

**Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be
clean indeed.**

Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may
rejoice.

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

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

**Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy Spirit
from me.**

Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you.

Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.

Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Page No. 787

MEDITATION

* HYMN

Sign Us with Ashes

Hymnal, No. 433

Leader will sing the verses; Congregation will sing the refrain

BLESSING AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Lord, bless the sinner who asks for your forgiveness and bless all those who
receive these ashes. May they keep this Lenten Season in preparation for the
joy of Easter.

**Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you have created us. 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 eternal life; through Christ Jesus our Savior.
Amen.**

*Those wishing to receive ashes come forward and be signed
with ashes and the words: "Remember you are dust, and to dust
you shall return".*

LITANY OF PENITENCE

Let us pray.

**Holy and merciful God,
we confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault in thought,
word, and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ.

We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness:

The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

we confess to you, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways

and our exploitation of other people,

we confess to you, O God

Our anger at our own frustration

and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

we confess to you, O God.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,

and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

we confess to you, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship,

and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

we confess to you, O God.

Accept our repentance, O God,

for the wrongs we have done.

For our neglect of human need and suffering

and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

accept our repentance, O God.

For all false judgments,

for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,

and for our prejudice and contempt

toward those who differ from us,

accept our repentance, O God.

For our waste and pollution of your creation

and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

accept our repentance, O God.

Restore us, O God,

and let your anger depart from us.

Favorably hear us, O God,

for your mercy is great.

*DEPARTING PRAYER

God of compassion, through your son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself.

**Following his example of prayer and fasting,
may we obey you with willing hearts,**

**and serve one another in holy love,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

* HYMN

The Glory of These Forty Days

Hymnal, No. 165

* BENEDICTION

All may depart in quietness.