

Service of Divine Worship

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024

As You Focus for Worship

All-seeing God, you know our motives as well as our deeds; nothing we think or do is a secret from you. May our piety grow out of love for you, our generosity out of a genuine care for others, our prayers out of deep thankfulness for the treasures you entrust to our stewardship. Guide our time of fasting and self-examination toward the deepening of our faith and the effectiveness of our service, in Christ's name. Amen.¹

Welcome and Proclamation of the Good News

Prelude: *I Will Arise and Go to Jesus*
Resurrection Ringers

Cathy Moglebust

***Call to Worship:** *Responsive Reading*
Return to the Lord with all your heart,
for God is gracious and merciful.
In the name of Christ, be reconciled to God.
This is the day of our salvation.
*Let us worship God.*²

***Invocation**³ *Unison Reading*

***Hymn #81:** *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

Prayer for Illumination:

God our helper, by your Holy Spirit open our minds, that as the scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may be led into your truth and be taught your will, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.³

New Testament Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:17-6:10

Ministry of Music: *Create in Me a Clean Heart*
Heritage Choir

John Leavitt

Sermon: *The Ambassadors*

Reverend Kevin Stainton

***Glory to God Hymnal #421:** *Have Mercy, God, upon My Life*

Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline

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.³

Imposition of Ashes

As a sign of penitence, those who wish may come forward to have their forehead marked with ashes. After all who desire ashes have received them, the confession concludes with the following words:

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.

***Hymn #339:** *Be Thou My Vision*

Prayer

*** Benediction**

All Quietly Depart

**Those who are able may stand.*

¹ Reprinted by permission, *Led by Love, Year B*, by Lavon Bayler, © 1996 by United Church Press

² From *Call to Worship, Year B, Volume 48.1*, © 2014-15 Office of Theology and Worship Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

³ Reprinted by permission from *Book of Common Worship*, © 1993 Westminster John Knox Press

Heritage Presbyterian Church

February 14, 2024

Ash Wednesday

Order of Worship



Pastor — *Kevin Stainton*

Children's Ministry Director — *Susie Faas*

Youth Director/ Administrator — *Patty Schmetzer*

Director of Music Ministries — *Karen Mail*

Accompanist/Organist — *Ann & Tim LeVan*

Business Manager — *Susan Brose*

Preschool Director — *Beth Galberg*

Custodian — *Rich Johnson*

Office Administrator — *Stephanie Martin*

e-mail — office@hpcmason.org; website: www.hpcmason.org

Church Office: 513-398-7671 Fax: 513-573-9722 Preschool: 513-398-7981

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.**

Invocation *Unison Reading*

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.

Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline

Friends in Christ, every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marks the penitence of this community.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and mediating on the Word of God.

Let us bow before God, our Creator and Redeemer, and confess our sin.

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.

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Imposition of Ashes

Prayer:

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.

People are invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes.

During the imposition, suitable hymns or psalms may be sung, or silence may be kept.

A worship leader marks the forehead of each person with the ashes, using the following words:

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

After all who desire ashes have received them, the confession concludes with the following words, the people kneeling or bowing down:

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.