



SACRED PAUSE

ash wednesday

March 2, 2022
Gathered from Dust

THE
PEACE OF
CHRIST BE
WITH YOU

GOD
WELCOMES
ALL INTO
WORSHIP.
COME, AS
PEOPLE
BELOVED IN
GOD:
TO SING, PRAY,
ENGAGE THE
WORD
PROCLAIMED,
BE CLEANSED
AND FED BY
THE MEANS OF
GRACE AND
LIVE OUT
BELONGING,
DRAWN
TOGETHER BY
THE SPIRIT.

Bold text is read or sung
by the assembly

*Asterisk invites all
to stand in body or spirit



GATHERING

Voluntary

Welcome

*Please find the friendship register, at the end of the pew
and fill in your information so we may connect with you*

*Call to Worship

We despise our fragility.

God is our hope in life and in death.

We are terrified by shapeless threat.

In Christ we are held, in life and in death.

God chooses redemption and releases the bonds of fear.

May God prepare our hearts and minds to be renewed in Christ.

*Hymn 433

Sign Us with Ashes

Stanza 1 - soloist

Stanza 2 - lower voices

Stanza 3 - all

Stanza 4 - soloist

Stanza 5 - higher voices

Stanza 6 - all

Prayer of Confession

Holy God,

how quickly we defend ourselves.

Our minds are full of excuses, justification, and denial.

**The sense of threat distances us from one another
and hardens our hearts.**

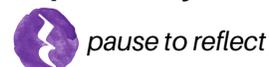
Humble us.

Hold us.

Heal us.

Forgive us, O God, our creator and sustainer.

Our hope and restoration depend on you alone.



*Declaration of Forgiveness

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

SACRED PAUSE in the season of Lent we will have intentional pauses in the worship service. You are invited to lean into the discomfort or peace that arises at these moments of reflection.

The Scriptures are selected from the Revised Common Lectionary, a church wide reading plan. After 3 years major themes of scripture and large portions of all books in the Bible will have been read. The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) is the translation used in worship.

Confession is an invitation to lay down our burdens and be truthful about how sin disconnects us from God and one another, and to name all the ways in which, we, like Paul, "Do not understand the impact of our own actions (Romans 7:15) Yet, we trust God has forgiven and restored us before we ask.

Taizé, the sung responses are chants from an ecumenical monastic community in France. The meditative quality of the chants invites us to let go and be present to God's presence.

WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading Genesis 3:17-19

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:17 - 6:2

***Gospel** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

We proclaim Christ crucified—the wisdom and power of God.

Thanks be to God.



pause to reflect

Invitation to a Holy Lent

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with a public act of confession. Acknowledging that we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory, we repent and return to our loving creator. Acutely aware of our failure and frailty, we express our utter reliance on God's saving grace. Ash Wednesday developed in the medieval period as a time when penitent sinners were presented for church discipline during the season of Lent, to be reconciled with the community of faith on Maundy Thursday. Ash Wednesday also came to be the occasion for new believers to enroll in the catechumenate, a period of preparation for baptism at Easter. For those who undertake spiritual disciplines, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten fast.

Anthem *Create in Me a Clean Heart* arr. Carl F. Mueller

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, unto me of thy salvation, restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me, uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Create in me a clean heart, O God!

This text comes from Psalm 51.

The traditional text sung or spoken on Ash Wednesday

*Imposition of Ashes

Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance, sorrow, and sacrifice. Traditionally, the ashes for this service are made from the palm branches of the previous year; thus the ashes and palms together frame the season of Lent.

"The cross, with which the ashes are traced upon us, is the sign of Christ's victory over death. The words 'Remember thou art dust and that to dust thou shall return' are not to be taken as a the quasi-form of a kind of "sacrament of death" (as if such a thing were possible). It might be good stoicism to receive a mere reminder of our condemnation to die, but it is not Christianity."

-Thomas Merton-

Hymn 814 - sung repetitively until all have received ashes

***In God alone my soul can find rest and peace,
in God my peace and joy.
Only in God my soul can find its rest,
find its rest and peace.***

Prayer of Intercession

Let us have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus as we pray for the world he came to save, saying: Have mercy, O God; **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church . . . 
Bring us through every obstacle and trial so that we might be a living sign of the new life you offer to all.
Have mercy, O God; **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world . . . 
Put an end to war and destruction. Let the people of every nation learn your ways of grace and peace.
Have mercy, O God; **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community . . . 
Help us to share our food with the hungry, to welcome the homeless, clothe the naked, and never to hide from neighbors in need.
Have mercy, O God; **hear our prayer.**

We pray for loved ones . . . 
Look with healing and compassion on those who are troubled by sickness or sin. Deliver them from every evil.
Have mercy, O God; **hear our prayer.**

As we pour out our hearts in prayer, O God, **lead us to pour out our lives in service to you—ever seeking your will, ever following your way; all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The 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

*Hymn 450

Be Thou My Vision
verses 1, 2, & 4

Charge & Blessing



Intercession is the practice of coming before God in openness and honesty, during which we name our tenderest human need and our deepest hope for change and transformation, in the expectation that God will confer a blessing. Such a practice, enacted together with one another in the body of Christ, is crucial to our life with God

Note for Young Worshippers:

On Ash Wednesday, we remember one really important thing: God is God, and we are not! We mark ourselves with ash, dust, or oil to remember that God loves us, no matter what. Every day, we want to live in a way that serves God and shows God's love.

Liturgy describes the prayers, music, and all other components of the worship service. The word liturgy breaks down to mean 'work of the people' better understood as public service. Worship is reciprocal.

In what ways are you called to make space for relationship with God this Lent?

Receive love.
Give love. 
repeat.

Lenten Worship Schedule

WEEKDAYS (MON-FRI) AT 9:30 AM - DAILY PRAYER ON FACEBOOK LIVE

Sundays at 9:45 AM - Special Lenten Adult Sunday School Class

Weekly - a mailed devotional (if the church office has your mailing address)

Today, Mar 2: Ash Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Sun, Mar 6: First Sunday of Lent at 11 a.m.

Sun, Mar 13: Second Sunday of Lent at 11 a.m.
Chili and Bingo following worship

Sun, Mar 20: Third Sunday of Lent at 11 a.m.
Bowling & Pizza at 4 p.m.

Sun, Mar 27: Fourth Sunday of Lent at 11 a.m.

Sun, Apr 3: Fifth Sunday of Lent at 11 a.m.

Sun, Apr 10: Palm to Passion Sunday at 11 a.m.
worship will begin with the
parade of palms and
end at the cross.

HOLY WEEK

April 14

- 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday at Westminster

April 15

- 7 p.m. Good Friday at Westminster

April 16

- all day prayer vigil at Westminster (sign up for a time)

At Westminster Presbyterian Church Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

all members are ministers.

As a PC(USA) congregation, Westminster, is led by a council of elders (the session) who are elected by the congregation to three year terms. The session is moderated by the pastor. Leading as a group of representatives, this group discerns the spiritual and programmatic life of the congregation .

SERVING TODAY

Rev. Kallie Pitcock, Preacher & Presider
Dr. Deborah Dalton, Director of Music
Dr. James Pitts, Organist

Church Leadership

Kallie Pitcock, Pastor
Sharon Templeman,
Commissioned Ruling Elder
Whitney Frazier,
Christian Educator
Sue Atkins, Treasurer
Myra McNellie,
Bell Choir director

THE SESSION

CLASS OF 2022

Tony Thompson
Bruce McNellie
Robin Moore
David Sanderson

CLASS OF 2023

Bobbie Ann Anderson
Jill Ivy
Vance Rogers
Ray Taylor
Katie Tracey

CLASS OF 2024

Marilyn Tutwiler
Becky Helmer
Margaret Sultenfuss
Norm Markworth
Elise Gavin



Code to share contact
information and receive
email updates

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www.westpreschurch.com

facebook.com/westpresnac

Church Office: (936) 564-0203 | office@wpcnac.com

Rev. Pitcock: (936) 463-8298 | kallie@wpcnac.com

Church Office Hours: 9:00 am - noon, Monday - Friday



Code to give
securely to the
church online

433

Sign Us with Ashes

Capo 3: (G) (D) (Em) (Bm) (Am7)
Refrain B \flat F Gm Dm Cm7
All



Sign us with ash - es, mer - ci - ful God, chil - dren of

(G) (Am7) (D) (G) (D)
 B \flat Cm7 F B \flat F



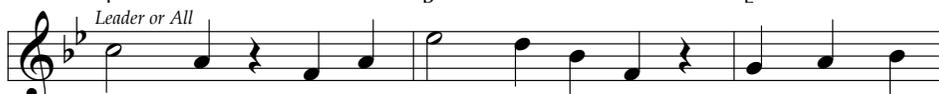
dust, as to dust we re - turn. Sign us with ash - es,

(Em) (Bm) (Am7) (D7) (Gsus) (G)
 Gm Dm Cm7 F7 B \flat sus B \flat *Fine*



mer - ci - ful God. Mark us and make us your own.

(D) (G) (C)
 F B \flat E \flat



1	Sure - ly,	you a - lone	can save us.	You pay our
2	Sure - ly,	you a - lone	up - hold us.	You give us
3	Sure - ly,	you a - lone	can heal us.	Yours is the
4	Sure - ly,	you a - lone	can free us.	You break the
5	Sure - ly,	you a - lone	re - fine us.	You give us
6	Sure - ly,	you a - lone	re - deem us.	You fill our

(G) (D) (G) (D)
 B \flat F B \flat F



price	with pre - cious	blood.	Reach - ing	through your
strength	for all our	needs.	Shield - ing	with a
will	to make us	whole.	Sooth - ing	with a
bonds	of guilt and	sin.	Brac - ing,	till we
grace	for lives	made new,	forg - ing,	through your
dust	with ho - ly	breath.	Burst - ing	from the

The refrain here recalls the imposition of ashes, a ritual based on Genesis 3:19, which has been a part of Christian worship on Ash Wednesday since the 9th century. As *The Book of Common Worship* states, "This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life."

CONFESSION

(G) (C) (G) (Dsus) (D)
 B^b E^b B^b F^{sus} F
to Refrain

great com - pas - sion, you lift up your peo - ple with love.
 fa - ther's fa - vor, you bless us with par - don and peace.
 moth - er's kind - ness, the con - trite of heart, you con - sole.
 walk up - right - ly, you bol - ster our hope once a - gain.
 fire and ra - diance, a sac - ri - fice wor - thy for you.
 grave in glo - ry, you rise from the ash - es of death!

In God Alone

814

Mon âme se repose

In God a-lone my soul can find rest and peace, in
Mon â - me se re - po - se en paix sur Dieu seul: de

God my peace and joy. On - ly in God my
lui vient mon sa - lut. Oui, sur Dieu seul mon

soul can find its rest, find its rest and peace.
â - me se re - po - se, se re - po - se en paix.

This prayer response based on Psalm 62:1, 5 comes from the ecumenical community in Taizé, France (see also no. 843). It is intended for repeated singing in either language (or both). It can also be used effectively as a recurring congregational response in a series of prayers.

450

Be Thou My Vision

Capo 1: (D) (G) (D/F#) (A7) (D)
 Eb Ab Eb/G Bb7 Eb

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A) (D) (G) (A)
 Bb Eb Ab Bb

naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G) (D) (F#m7) (G) (A)
 Ab Eb Gm7 Ab Bb

thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm) (D/F#) (G) (D)
 Cm Eb/G Ab Eb

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.