

Christ Presbyterian Church



Ash Wednesday Worship March 6, 2019 – 6:30 pm

*The dried palm branches from Palm Sunday are burned each year.
The ashes are used in tonight's service.*

Please silence electronic devices.

Boldface type indicates a Congregational reading or response.

The Prelude

Nearer My God to Thee

Joel Raney

Lamb of God

Lloyd Larson

Abide With Me

Jerry Ray

Hashivenu (Turn Us to You, O God)

Israeli Folk Song, arr. Doreen Rao

* The Call to Worship

The Lord invites us to return with our whole heart.

We turn to God, because God is gracious and merciful.

We have now received the message of reconciliation,

And we are now Christ's ambassadors.

Indeed, the right time is now.

The day of the Lord is coming.

*The Gathering Hymn *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

Hymnal No.80

The first stanza will be sung by a solo voice; please join in singing stanzas 2 and 3.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you despise nothing that you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who trust in you. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that in repenting our sins, and acknowledging our brokenness, we may receive from you full pardon and forgiveness, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

Song of Confession *Most Merciful God (with Psalm 51)*

Chris Pearce

The Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

A Reading from Scripture Joel 2:1-2; 12-13

Blow the trumpet in Zion! Sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming,

– a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness!

Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes;

their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart,

with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord, your God, for God is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

Taizé Meditation

This is meditative common prayer. Gathered in the presence of Christ, we sing a repetitive chant, uncluttered by too many words, allowing the mystery of God to become tangible through the beauty of simplicity.

The image shows a musical score for a Taizé meditation. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." and "Bless the Lord, my soul, Who leads me in - to life." The piano accompaniment is primarily block chords with some melodic movement in the bass line.

A Time of Silence

When we try to express communion with God in words, our minds quickly come short. But, in the depths of our being, through the Holy Spirit, Christ is praying far more than we imagine. Listen to the voice of God deep within, which is often heard only in a whisper.

An Anthem

Return to God

John Helgen

*Return to God from wayward ways, and crossed with ash,
the threshold cross into the desert wilderness.
There at your will these twoscore days, seek out the dry, a spring awaits.
Seek out the still, a voice will call. Seek out the plain, there angels care.
And in the sere and barren air discern the passion under all:
God's voice, "Return, I love you still."
~Susan Palo Cherwien*

Meditation

*The Imposition of Ashes

Tonight we will share the imposition of ashes with one another: come forward, dip a finger into the ashes, and place the sign of the cross on the forehead of the person behind you in line. As you do so, say the words of imposition: "From dust we have come, and to dust we shall return."

Music

Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

Fernando Ortega

* The Closing Prayer

O God, who made all things new – new stars, new dust, new life – take my heart, every hardened edge and measured beat, and create something new in me. I need your newness, God, the rough parts of me made smooth; the stagnant, stirred; the struck, freed; the unkind, forgiven. By the power of your Spirit, turn me toward love again. Amen.

*The Sending Hymn

Christ of the Upward Way

Hymnal No. 344
(Sursum corda)

*The Benediction

Postlude

Wondrous Love

The Worship Band

Leading in Worship

Rev. Dale Chapin, Kathy Otterson, Matt Sally
Musicians: The Scholarship Singers Quartet and Worship Band
Robert Haigler and Matt Sally, piano
John Itson, oboe; Bob Clark, bass; Bill Cheadle, drums



Please join us for Wednesday Lent Suppers and Vespers Services
5:30pm Supper, Fellowship Hall 6:15 Music 6:30pm Vespers Service, Chapel

March 13	<i>The Quartet; Kathy Otterson, John Bohman, organ</i>
March 20	<i>Matt Sally and members of the Worship Team</i>
March 27	<i>Mary Strait, Elise Blanchard, Carol Quintana; Kathy Otterson, piano</i>
April 3	<i>Kathy Otterson; Sharol Hayner, piano</i>
April 10	<i>Roald Henderson, tenor; Robert Haigler, piano and organ</i>

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