

Westminster PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



ASH WEDNESDAY - 7 PM
FEBRUARY 14, 2018

WORSHIP AT WESTMINSTER

Welcome, Greeting, and Invitation to Lenten Discipline

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season in the church year known as Lent. Lent is a time to prepare for the celebration of Easter and to renew our life in the mystery of the saving death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. 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, a biblical symbol of mourning and penitence. This ancient sign speaks of the fragility of human life, and marks the penitence of the community of faith. 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 meditating on the Word of God, beginning with this service today.

Prelude

Call to Worship (Based on Joel 2:12-14)

Leader: Behold, now is the acceptable time. Today is the day of God's salvation.

People: We tremble in fear and anticipation at the nearness of a God so great and powerful.

Leader: Return with all your heart, with weeping, fasting, and mourning.

People: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Leader: Be reconciled to God, through Christ Jesus, and receive a new and right spirit within.

People: We will fast and pray as an inner discipline, preparing ourselves for faithful discipleship.

***Processional Hymn: Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes**

Beach Spring

1. *Sun-day's palms are Wednes-day's ash - es as an -
 2. We have failed to love our neigh - bors, their of -
 3. We are hast - y to judge oth - ers, blind to

oth - er Lent be - gins; thus we kneel be - fore our
 fenc - es to for - give, have not lis - tened to their
 proof of hu - man need; and our lack of un - der -

Mak - er in con - tri - tion for our
 trou - bles, nor have cared just how they
 stand - ing dem - on - strates our in - ner

sins. We have marred bap - tis - mal 'pledg - es, in re -
 live, we are jeal - ous, proud, im - pa - tient, lov - ing
 greed; we have wast - ed earth's re - sourc - es; want and

bel - lion gone a - stray; now, re - turn - ing, seek for -
 o - ver - much our things; may the yield - ing of our
 suf - fering we've ig - nored; come and cleanse us, then re -

give - ness; grant us par - don, God, this day!
 fail - ings be our Len - ten of - fer - ings.
 store us; make new hearts with - in us, Lord!

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Time of Confession

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O, God, when we pause to look back at our lives on this Ash Wednesday, we realize that we have been weighed in the balance and found wanting. We have neglected to do good when it was in our power to do so. We, like believers of old, have pulled down your altars and erected idols crafted in our own image. We have not dealt honorably with our enemies or our friends, and we have feigned a place in the company of the righteous. Forgive us, O God, for the times we have neglected to provide our children and our world an authentic example of Christianity. As we begin the journey of these 40 days wash us, O God and we shall be clean; Cleanse us, O Lord, and we shall be made whole. Amen.

Kyrie (The People Sing Responsively)

Leader: Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us.

People: Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us.

Leader: Christ, Have Mercy Upon Us.

People: Christ, Have Mercy Upon Us.

Leader: Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us.

People: Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: Friends, Believe the Good News of God's Grace.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

***Response to Forgiveness: #215 What Wondrous Love is This (Verse 1)**

Wondrous Love

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

Prayer for Illumination

Reading from the Old Testament

Isaiah 58:1-12, p. 533

Reading from the New Testament

I Peter 3:13-22, p. 183

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem: Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

Carl 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; and 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.

Chancel Choir; Grace Jackson, Organ

The Meditation: "THE REMOVAL OF DIRT"

Rev. Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

***Hymn of Response: #490 Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters**

Beach Spring

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Imposition of Ashes, Renewal of Baptism, The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Sacraments

Sacraments are embodiments of the good news of God's Word. After you have received your ashes, you're invited to stop by the font on your way to the table to remember that while you may be dust, you are baptized dust. You are so precious to God that our Lord has been broken so that you might know the wholeness of eternal life. He was baptized with the baptism of death, drinking to the empty dregs the cup God placed before him, so that we might know life in all its fullness. This bread of life, this cup of blessing are set before us to nourish us as the body of Christ's blessing for the world. So come, let us join in this foretaste of the meal of God's Kingdom, spread out for us as we serve and are served in Christ's name.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer (Traditional)

Hymnal p. 35

Words of Institution

Imposition of Ashes

Renewal of Baptism

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer after Communion

*Hymn of Discipleship: #166 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

St. Flavian

*Sending Forth

*This sign is an invitation, to all who are able, to stand as they offer God thanks and praise.

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Leading In Worship:

Pastor/Head of Staff: Rev. Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Associate Pastor for Congregational Care : Rev. Michelle Junkin

Associate Pastor for Youth and Education: Rev. Abbey Walker

Commissioned Lay Pastor: Glenn Dunn

Pastoral Intern: Laurel Hall

Director of Worship and Music: Josh Phelps

Organ: Grace Jackson, Organ Scholar

Piano: Eleanor Whitsett, Organist Emeritus

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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Sunday mornings on KOCO (check local listings) at 11:00am

Online via our LiveStream at <http://www.wpcokc.com/live-streaming>