

# LENT



First Presbyterian Church of  
**EDGEWOOD**  
The Community Church



## First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood Worship Ash Wednesday – March 2, 2022, 7:00PM

*Please pick up communion elements from the trays at the entrances to the sanctuary upon arrival, take to your seats, and partake when directed during the sacrament.*

### WELCOME

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Blow the trumpet in Zion;

**Sound the alarm on God's holy mountain!**

Let all the people of the land tremble,

**For the day of the LORD is coming, it is near!**

In the midst of darkness, we have come.

**Heal us, Lord Jesus.**

Save us from the darkness of our souls.

**Save us, Lord Jesus.**

Let us follow you and obey your commands

**Direct and guide us, Lord Jesus.**

Brighten our lives and lift our spirits.

**Bring us to your glorious presence, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

### \*HYMN #183

"Come to Me, O Weary Traveler"

1 "Come to me, O weary traveler;  
come to me with your distress;  
come to me, you heavy burdened;  
come to me and find your rest."

2 "Do not fear, my yoke is easy;  
do not fear, my burden's light;  
do not fear the path before you;  
do not run from me in fright."

3 "Take my yoke and leave your troubles;  
take my yoke and come with me.  
Take my yoke, I am beside you;  
take and learn humility."

4 "Rest in me, O weary traveler;  
rest in me and do not fear.  
Rest in me, my heart is gentle;  
rest and cast away your care."

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Lent is a journey of deepening reflection and renewal, an opportunity to make new commitments in faith. We prepare for the journey by setting aside burdens that would weigh us down. We have come to this place shrouded in darkness both of night and of spirit. We come seeking God's healing light. Let us turn to God and confess our sin.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Creator God, you fashioned us out of dust,**

**breathing your Spirit into us, so we might sing your praise.**

**But we have denounced your gift of life in order to be our own gods,  
clinging to death-dealing idols of our own making.**

**We have denied our creaturely status,  
seeking to lord it over those we label "less-than."**

**We squelch all who are different  
through ignoring, belittling, murdering, and bombing.**

**We believe survival-of-the-fittest lies, discounting the weak,  
and profiting by others' pain.**

**Not trusting in your providence,  
we stop our ears to cries of those in need  
because we're afraid we won't have enough.**

**We have been unfaithful stewards, O Lord.**

**We live in a state of sin among a people of sin.  
Save for your grace, we perish.  
Remember our making, Creator God; remember we are dust.  
Have mercy on us according to your loving kindness.  
Breathe new life into us once more,  
so we might be the people you created us to be.  
Restore unto us the joy of your salvation  
that we might do justice, love kindness,  
and walk humbly with the Lord Jesus Christ,  
in whose name we pray, Amen.**

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The night is dark, but there is a Light which has overcome the darkness.  
Jesus is the Light of the World and will illuminate your pathway. Hear the promise of God:  
"I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you will be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances."

Friends, the promises of God are true:

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good to live now as new people, free to love God and neighbor.**

#### **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

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 meditating on the Word of God.

**Almighty God has 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 God's gracious gift  
are we given everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Savior.**

Come, now to the place where you will receive the mark of forgiveness and discipleship.

Enter the journey which will lead to your healing and hope.

Come, for all is ready.

*(If you desire to be anointed with ashes, you are invited to come up the center aisle and receive the ashes on your forehead. The leader will say "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."  
Then, please return to your seat by the outer aisle.)*

#### **HYMN #442**

"Just as I Am, Without One Plea"

1 Just as I am, without one plea  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou biddest me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

3 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

2 Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many\_a conflict, many\_a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

4 Just as I am, thy love unknown  
has broken every barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

#### **SCRIPTURE**

Psalm 51

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.  
<sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.  
<sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.  
<sup>4</sup> Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless when you pass judgment.  
<sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born guilty,

a sinner when my mother conceived me.  
 6 You desire truth in the inward being;  
 therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.  
 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
 wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
 8 Let me hear joy and gladness;  
 let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.  
 9 Hide your face from my sins,  
 and blot out all my iniquities.  
 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
 and put a new and right spirit within me.  
 11 Do not cast me away from your presence,  
 and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
 and sustain in me a willing<sup>[c]</sup> spirit.  
 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
 and sinners will return to you.  
 14 Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,  
 O God of my salvation,  
 and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.  
 15 O Lord, open my lips,  
 and my mouth will declare your praise.  
 16 For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
 if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.  
 17 The sacrifice acceptable to God<sup>[d]</sup> is a broken spirit;  
 a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.  
 18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;  
 rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,  
 19 then you will delight in right sacrifices,  
 in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;  
 then bulls will be offered on your altar.

## REFLECTION

Rev. Fairlight Collins Lower

## SONG OF RESPONSE

"Create in Me A Clean Heart"

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

Pass me not away from your presence, O Lord,  
 and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
 Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,  
 and renew a right spirit within me.

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### INVITATION

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.

### GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

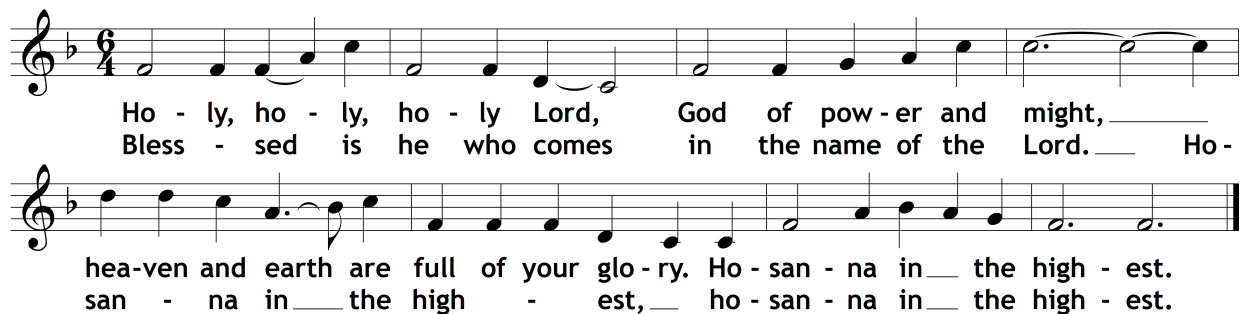
It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise,  
 Eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe.

**You hold all our days in your hand,  
 the same hand that spangled stars in  
 the sky and shaped dust into human form.**

You breathed your life into us earthlings,  
 and set us in your world to love and serve you.

**But we reject your love.**

Yet you continue to woo us, calling us through prophets to return to a covenant of love with you.  
 Therefore, with all of creation, the heavenly angels, and all saints, we lift our voices in praise:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
Bless - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

We praise you that you sent Jesus to capture us with your love.

**Living as one of us, baptized in Holy Spirit, he taught us your Way.**

We remember your faithfulness unto death,

O Lord, and look with awe upon your tortured love bleeding accursed upon a tree.

**We celebrate Christ's rising that released us from bondage to sin.**

Following you into the promised Dominion of God, we confidently sing the mystery of faith:



Christ has died; Christ is ris - en; Christ will come a - gain.  
Christ has died; Christ is ris - en; Christ will come a - gain.

Thank you, for the gift of this table set as a sign of your Reign in our midst.

**Come now, Holy Spirit, and move among us**

that we might perceive your presence and our union with all the saints

of all times and places as we partake of this covenant meal of your Dominion.

**We offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice, devoted to following you**

and praying for the hungry world you call us to serve as your body...

*(Silent intercessions)*

Hear us Lord, for we pray in the name of the one who taught us to pray saying:

**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.**

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD & COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper is shared.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

### \*HYMN

"Jesus Walked the Lonesome Valley"

1 Jesus walked this lonesome valley;

He had to walk it by himself.

Oh, nobody else could walk it for him;

He had to walk it by himself.

2 We must walk this lonesome valley;

We have to walk it by ourselves.

Oh, nobody else can walk it for us;

We have to walk it by ourselves.

3 You must go and stand your trial;

You have to stand it by yourself.

Oh, nobody else can stand it for you;

You have to stand it by yourself.

## BENEDICTION

### A LENTEN IMAGE

*"Here's my image of Ash Wednesday: If our lives were a long piece of fabric with our baptism on one end and our funeral on another, and we don't know the distance between the two, then Ash Wednesday is a time when that fabric is pinched in the middle and the ends are held up so that our baptism in the past and our funeral in the future meet. The water and words from our baptism plus the earth and words from our funerals have come from the past and future to meet us in the present. And in that meeting we are reminded of the promises of God: That we are God's, that there is no sin, no darkness, and yes, no grave that God will not come to find us in and love us back to life. These promises outlast our earthly bodies and the limits of time."*

**Nadia Bolz-Weber, Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People**

### Participants in this service:

The Rev. Fairlight Collins Lower, guest pastor | Shaun Cloonan, minister of music | Sunny Sakai, pianist

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