

# **Ash Wednesday Service**

Westminster Presbyterian Church

7:00 PM

March 6, 2019



**ASH  
WEDNESDAY**

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## **Order of Worship**

7:00 PM –March 6, 2019

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*Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. By the fourth century the Western church had determined that the Lenten period of fasting and renewal should correspond to Christ's forty-day fast (Matthew 4:2), and, by counting forty days back from Easter (excluding Sundays, which remain "feast" days), arrived at the Wednesday seven weeks before Easter.*

*The aim of Ash Wednesday worship is threefold: to meditate on our mortality, sinfulness, and need of a savior; to renew our commitment to daily repentance in the Lenten season and all of life; and to remember with confidence and gratitude that Christ has conquered death and sin. Ash Wednesday worship, then, is filled with gospel truth. It is a witness to the power and beauty of our union with Christ and to the daily dying and rising with Christ that this entails.*

*The imposition of ashes is often a central part of the worship service. Ashes have a long history in the biblical and church traditions. In Scripture ashes or dust symbolize frailty or death (Genesis 18:27), sadness or mourning (Esther 4:3), judgment (Lamentations 3:16), and repentance (Jonah 3:6). Some traditions also have considered ash a purifying or cleansing agent. In Christ's passion we see God's judgment on evil; in our penitence we express sorrow and repentance for our sins; in our rededication we show that we are purified and renewed.*

(\*Congregation is invited to stand. **Bold** Congregation speaks.)

Voluntary	Prelude from Suite, op. 5	Maurice Durufle
Introit	If With All Your Hearts from Elijah John Pickle, <i>tenor</i>	Felix Mendelssohn

## Call to Worship

Grace and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

Open our eyes to see injustice in our world.

**Give us courage to resist the powers that oppress the poor.**

Open our ears to hear the cry of the needy.

**Teach us generosity for sharing the abundance of your creation.**

Open our minds to imagine an end to human strife.

**Grant us wisdom to pursue the ways of peace.**

Open our hearts to love our neighbors and our enemies near and far.

**Give us desire to embody the compassion of Christ.**

For the sake of the world, in the name of Christ we pray.

**Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

\*Hymn 81      Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days      ST. FLAVIAN

Time with Young Disciples      Sheila Svoboda

## Prayer for Illumination

The First Lesson      Joel 2: 1, 12-17      Pew Bible, Old Testament Pg. 846

The Second Lesson      2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10  
Pew Bible, New Testament Pg. 181

Thoughts for Ash Wednesday

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

### The Imposition of Ashes

*As directed by the pastor, please come forward, row by row, for the imposition of ashes. If you have mobility issues, please raise your hand where you are seated and the pastor will come to you.*

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Genesis 3:19

### Prayer following the Imposition of Ashes

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 85

What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE

\*Blessing

*Please depart in silence.*

### Worship Leaders:

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas, Pastor  
Alcee Chriss III, Director of Music/Organist