



# balmoral presbyterian church

## service of worship



March 2, 2022

Ash Wednesday

6:00pm

**Prelude**

“Meditation”

John Turner

**Welcome**

The Rev. Mary Newberg Gale

**\*Call to Worship**

Rev. Gale

“Even now, declares the Lord,  
return to me with all your heart.” (*Joel 2:12*)

**Roll up your sleeves.**

Let down your guard.

**Come in from the storm.**

Make yourself at home.

**Pull up to the table.**

Release the tension in your jaw. Take a deep breath.

Return to God with all your heart.

**May it be so.**

**\*Hymn 466**

“Come and Fill Our Hearts”

CONFITEMINI DOMINO

**Litany for Ash Wednesday**

Rev. Gale

In the softness of evening,  
**in the solace of silence we come to you, O Lord.**  
We come for acceptance;  
**we come for community;**  
**we come for forgiveness and love.**

**Congregational Response 471** “O Lord, Hear My Prayer” HEAR MY PRAYER (Berthier)

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; when I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; come and listen to me.

***Silence***

In the quiet of the night,  
**in the comfort of darkness we come to you, O Lord.**  
We come for peace;  
**we come for comfort;**  
**we come for forgiveness and love.**

**Congregational Response 471** “O Lord, Hear My Prayer” HEAR MY PRAYER (Berthier)

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; when I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; come and listen to me.

***Silence***

We come, O Lord of Light,  
**seeking the illumination of your Word.**  
We come for the path we can't find;  
**we come for the life we don't have.**  
**We come to you for our lives are death**  
and you alone have breath and being.  
**In the name of your Son, our Savior, Christ, the Lord. Amen.**

## Confession

**Holy God, we confess: we don't return to you fully.  
We share with you the pieces of our lives that are convenient.  
We put on different hats in different rooms.  
We forget that we are called, invited, and loved with all that we are -  
Including our mess, our beauty, our faith, and our doubt.  
Forgive us, and give us hearts that long to return.**

*Keep a generous silence, and listen to your life.*

## Hymn of Reflection 215 (verse 1) "What Wondrous Love is This" WONDROUS LOVE

## **Prayer for Illumination** Rev. Gale

## **First Scripture Reading**      **Joel 2:1-2, 12-17**      **Rev. Gale**

Second Scripture Reading Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Rev. Gale

## Time of Reflection

*(Following a brief homily, you are invited to participate in the three prayer stations set up around the sanctuary. We take this opportunity to embody our prayers while letting go of the things that weigh us down as we prepare ourselves for expansive living in God.)*

**Hymn of Reflection 654** “In the Lord, I’ll be Ever Thankful” IN THE LORD I’LL BE EVER THANKFUL

**Pastoral Prayer** Rev. Gale

## Imposition of Ashes

“From the dust you were taken, and from the dust you return”

In your mercy you call us to the path of repentance. You remind us in your word that we are earth and dust. But you promise to lift the poor from dust. Come and receive the sign of repentance.

We were created in the image of God. For out of ashes, out of the earth, shall spring forth new life, so to the earth of our creation and to God our Creator, we must return. Repent, knowing that your sins are forgiven, and that new life awaits in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

*(At this time you are invited to come forward and receive the imposition of ashes,  
marking us with the cross of Christ.)*

## Prayer

**\*Hymn 215 (verses 2, 3, 4)**      “What Wondrous Love is This”      WONDROUS LOVE

## Benediction

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All responsive readings are shown with normal type for the leader, and the bold portions are read in unison by all.

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All other liturgy adapted from "Full to the Brim: Words for Worship" by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | [asaintedart.org](http://asaintedart.org)"