



Ash Wednesday Service

A Joint Service with members and friends of:

Bush Hill Presbyterian Church

Calvary Presbyterian Church

Heritage Presbyterian Church

Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church

Online Worship Resource

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 ~ 7:00 PM

(*) Please stand, as you are led.

BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION

Prelude:

Peace

Stanton Lanier

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

WELCOME

Rev. Michelle Fincher, CPC

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Dr. Bob Melone, MVPC

We come to worship as the Lenten season begins, aware of our frailty and our failings.

We come seeking God's mercy, acknowledging our mortality.

Having been marked in the waters of baptism, we are marked now with ashes.

The treasures of this earth do not last; our treasure is God, our heart's true home.

***OPENING HYMN #2128, v. 1, 2** *Come and Find the Quiet Center*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIGHT

Rev. Dr. Barbara Heck, BHPC

We give you thanks and praise, O God of endless light, through our Lord Jesus Christ. In him your light shines in our hearts and reveals the light that never fades. Through the outpouring of your Spirit you give sight to our souls, that we may see your glory in the presence of Christ. Strengthen us where we are weak, support us in our efforts to do your will, and free our tongues to sing your praise, for to you all honor and blessing are due, now and forever. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

CONFSSION

Rev. Dr. Rob Erickson, HPC

Merciful God, whose ways are good and true, we confess that we have not loved as Christ has called us to love. We have shut our eyes to evils our world allows. We have refused to hear the cries of the suffering whose pain we abide. We have clung to the hostility we harbor against one another and hardened our hearts to the creative power of love. Forgive us, Lord and hear our prayer:

Open our eyes to see injustice in the 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 the desire to embody the compassion of Christ.

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

According to the Lord's abundant mercy, there is forgiveness for all who seek repentance and grace for all who turn their hearts to the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God! We are forgiven. Amen.

*SUNG RESPONSE #447 We Are Forgiven

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION # 2086 Open Our Eyes

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus, to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him. Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 58

Rev. Dr. Bob Melone

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10

Rev. Michelle Fincher

SILENT REFLECTION

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 6:1-6, 16 -21

Rev. Dr. Barbara Heck

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SILENT REFLECTION

***HYMN # 442**

Just as I Am

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!

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!

INVITATION TO IMPOSITION OF ASHES Rev. Dr. Rob Erickson & Rev. Dr. Heck

PRAYER

Loving God, you create us from the dust of the earth. May these ashes be for us a sign of our penitence and our mortality, a reminder that by the cross we receive eternal life. Until that day when our baptism will be completed in death, grant us faith and courage to live as those whose living and dying is in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

A FINAL MOMENT OF SILENCE

***FINAL HYMN #2199, v. 1, 3, 4** *Stay with Us*

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE:

Ah, Holy Jesus

Cruder/Ferguson

Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee, I do adore thee, and will ever
pray thee,
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving, not my deserving.