



**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
**ORDER OF SERVICE**  
**February 17, 2021 7PM**

*In preparation for worshipping in the home, we encourage you to prepare some ashes\* and a bowl of water for use during the service. Perhaps you would like to light a candle to signify God's presence with you, and to remind you that you are part of the community of God's people gathered and scattered.*

**The Preparation**

*"You desire truth in the most hidden places...." Psalm 51:6*

*In the time of preparation, let us prepare ourselves to come with honesty and humility into God's presence. The psalmist says God desires truth in the inward being, so let us look within our minds and hearts, and at our actions, so that we might notice the things that keep us far from God, from one another, from our neighbor, and from our truest selves.*

*Suggested scriptures passages for prayer and meditation: Psalm 51: 1-17, Isaiah 58:1-12, Joel 2:1-12, 12-17, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21. The music offered is listed below.*

**The Invitation**

**Remembering Who We Are**

**The Marking with Ashes**

*"Humble yourselves...under God's mighty hand,  
that he may lift you up in due time." (1 Peter 5:6)*

*In scripture, dust and ashes were used as signs of mourning and mortality. A person marked himself with ash, sprinkled dust on her robes, or sat in an ash heap to lament their sins, or express grief for suffering and death. Job 42:6 says "I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." When Job's friends saw his suffering, "they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads" in solidarity with his grief. In humility, in repentance, in recognition of their mortality, in solidarity with the sinful world, we mark ourselves with ashes.*

**Prayer- Lord, Jesus Think on Me (verse 1)**

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
and purge away my sin.  
From earth-born passions set me free,  
and make me pure within.

**Remembering Whose We Are**

**The Marking with Water**

**\*Prayer – Bless the Lord, My Soul**

*As the prayer is played, you are invited to come to the font, in your own time, so that the sign of ashes might be covered with the sign of grace as we remember our baptism. Let us take care of one another by keeping our distance. This year, instead of communal waters from the font, we will use individually-wrapped wipes to mark your brow.*

**\*HYMN – O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go**

O Love that wilt not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
that in thine ocean depths its flow  
may richer, fuller be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
and from the ground there blossoms red  
life that shall endless be.

**\*Benediction**

**\*The Peace of Christ**

We are grateful to Bruce Achuff, John Genter, Rob Land, Sarah Pinard, Jeannie Galick (Cello), Janet Marquardt (Violin) and Cynthia Foust (Piano) for their participation in this service.

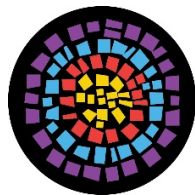
The music in the Time of Preparation:

Create in me a Clean Heart arr. Wilson  
Pie Jesu – Webber  
I Am His and He Is Mine arr. McKibben  
Traumerei –Schumann

The music in the Marking with Ashes:

Wondrous Love arr. Joyce

*\*Note: Traditionally, the ashes used on Ash Wednesday are from the burning of the palms from Palm Sunday, the year before, symbolizing how our hosannas turn to cries of “Crucify him!” But of course, you do not have leftover palms, so if you prepare ashes at home, you can use any ash from burned paper or wood. Do not mix the ashes with water. This makes a caustic substance that can irritate your skin. You can use the ashes dry or mixed with a drop or two of olive oil.*



**First  
Presbyterian**  
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