



ASH WEDNESDAY
Oakmont Presbyterian Church
March 2, 2022, 7:00 pm

GATHERING IN FAITH

Prelude

Michael Frank, Organ

Opening Sentences (from Joel 2:12-13)

Steve Crocco

Leader: Return to the Lord with all your heart!

People: The Lord our God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Prayer for Ash Wednesday

Sophia Leasure

Leader: Almighty God, through love You have made us, and for love You call us to repentance.

People: Grant that we who seek to mend our sinful ways may find strength in Your compassion and forgiveness.

Leader: Restore to us the joy of Your salvation;

People: give us Your Holy Spirit that we may serve You with willing hearts,

Leader: bearing witness to Your abundant mercy in all the world;

People: through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen!

*Hymn

Please join in singing

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Hymnal, No. 81

**Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins, and close by Thee to stay.**

**As Thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in Thee to fight, in Thee to conquer sin.**

**And through these days of penitence, and through Thy Passiontide,
Yea, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.**

**Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over-past,
An Easter of unending joy we may attain at last!**

words: Claudia F. I. Hernaman, alt.

music: *ST. FLAVIAN/Day's Psalter*

Prayer of Confession

Psalm 51:1-17

Steve Crocco

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; in Your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

Against You only have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be purer than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my wickedness.

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

Cast me not away from Your presence and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore me to the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Let me teach Your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to You.

Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Your praise.

For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, hear and believe the Good News: by the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, we are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Steve Wilson

Gospel Reading

Romans 8:1-11

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Meditation

Healing at Our Broken Places

Steve Wilson

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Music for Reflection

Chancel Choir

To Dust † (see Worship Notes)

Karen Marrolli

Let my crying come to dust. Let my grief be turned to ashes.

Let my heart be cleansed with flame.

Kyrie eleison [Lord, have mercy.]

Let my mourning turn to song. Let my sorrow turn to sunrise.

Let my broken spirit rest.

Kyrie eleison [Lord, have mercy.]

Let Your healing waters rise. Let Your desserts bloom with bounty.

Let Your Holy Spirit come.

Christe eleison [Christ, have mercy.]

Let our crying come to dust. Let our grief be turned to ashes.

Let our hearts be cleansed with flame.

Kyrie eleison [Lord, have mercy.]

- Karen Marrolli

Invitation to Observe a Holy Lent

Steve Wilson

Litany of Penitence

Steve Crocco

Leader: Let us pray:

Choir: Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Leader: Most holy and merciful God,

People: we confess to You and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

Choir: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Leader: We have not loved You with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

People: We have shut our ears to Your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved Your Holy Spirit. We confess to you our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives.

Choir: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Leader: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to You.

People: Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, along with our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to You.

Choir: Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.

.....Silence for reflection and personal confession

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ,

People: Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

Steve Wilson and Steve Crocco

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, calls us to heartfelt repentance, and urges us to place our hope in God alone.

It is an outward sign of our inward turning back to God.

Those who desire to receive ashes either on your forehead or your hand, may come forward by the two inner aisles and return by the side aisles.

Those who prefer not to receive ashes are invited to come forward for a blessing, please indicate by crossing your arms over your chest.

Unison Prayer

Steve Crocco

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 into the joy of Christ's resurrection. Amen.

GOING INTO THE WORLD IN FAITH

Sending Hymn

Ash Wednesday Comes, and Lord, We Hear

see bulletin, back page

Benediction

Steve Wilson

Postlude

Organ

Ash Wednesday Comes, and Lord, We Hear

1. Ash Wednes - day comes, and Lord, we hear the
 2. "Re turn to me with all your heart— with
 3. You call to us— the old, the young; you
 4. O God most mer - ci - ful and kind, your

word for which our spir - its yearn; a - mid this world's dis -
 fast - ing, weep - ing, mourn - ing, too." O God, we seek a
 sum - mon na - tions, strong and weak. When we have drift - ed
 love is not a prize we earn; yet in our life with

trous and fear, we hear your lov - ing call: "Re - turn!"
 brand new start, a new be - gin - ning here with you.
 toward the wrong, you call us back, your way to seek.
 you we find the joy that comes when we re - turn.

Biblical Text: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Tune: Thomas Tallis, Adapt. Parker's *Whole Psalter*, c. 1561

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Worship Notes

†The anthem *To Dust* is given to the Glory of God and *in loving memory of husband Keith* by his wife, Laura Amos.

Sunday's Message will be *The Holy Side of Wilderness*, Steve Wilson, Preaching