

# Westminster At Worship

## *A Celebration of Worship* *Ash Wednesday*

March 2, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Please silence your cell phones prior to entering the sanctuary.

*\*Those who are able to stand may do so.*



*“Return the joy of your salvation to me  
and sustain me with a willing spirit.”*

Psalm 51:12 (CEB)

*Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with a public act of confession. Acknowledging that we have all sinned and fallen short of God’s glory, we repent and return to our loving creator. Acutely aware of our failure and frailty, we express our utter reliance on God’s saving grace.*

*Ash Wednesday developed in the medieval period as a time when penitent sinners were presented for church discipline during the season of Lent, to be reconciled with the community of faith on Maundy Thursday. Ash Wednesday also came to be the occasion for new believers to enroll in...a period of preparation for baptism at Easter. For those who undertake spiritual disciplines, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten fast.*

*Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance, sorrow, and sacrifice. Traditionally, the ashes for this service are made from the palm branches of the previous year; thus the ashes and palms together frame the season of Lent.*



ASH WEDNESDAY

## GATHERING MUSIC

### PRELUDE

### OPENING MEDITATION

### OPENING PRAYER

Loving Lord of life; as we journey in through this holy season of Lent, give us grace and strength to make the changes that are needed in our lives, and in so doing, may we be open to your leading. Keep us mindful that you are with us in every moment, offering us the strength and creativity to choose what is right. Amen.

### WELCOME

### RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 51:1-17

LEADER: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**PEOPLE: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**

LEADER: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

**PEOPLE: Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.**

LEADER: Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

**PEOPLE: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

LEADER: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**PEOPLE: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

LEADER: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

**PEOPLE: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.**

LEADER: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

**PEOPLE: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

LEADER: Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

**PEOPLE: Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.**

LEADER: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

**PEOPLE: For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.**

LEADER: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

†HYMN

#281

*“Lamb of God”*

LAMB OF GOD

*Your only Son, no sin to hide, but you have sent him from your side, to walk upon this guilty sod, and to become the Lamb of God.*

*Your gift of love, they crucified, they laughed and scorned him as he died, the humble King they named a fraud, and sacrificed the Lamb of God.*

*I was so lost, I should have died, but you have brought me to your side, to be led by your staff and rod, and to be called the Lamb of God.*

**Refrain:** *O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God! O wash me in his precious blood — my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.*

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

### **READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES**

#### **Epistle Lesson**

#### **2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10**

<sup>20</sup>We beg you as Christ's representatives, "Be reconciled to God!" <sup>21</sup> God caused the one who didn't know sin to be sin for our sake so that through him we could become the righteousness of God.

**6** <sup>1</sup> Since we work together with him, we are also begging you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup> He says, *I listened to you at the right time, and I helped you on the day of salvation.* Look, now is the right time! Look, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup> We don't give anyone any reason to be offended about anything so that our ministry won't be criticized. <sup>4</sup> Instead, we commend ourselves as ministers of God in every way. We did this with our great endurance through problems, disasters, and stressful situations. <sup>5</sup> We went through beatings, imprisonments, and riots. We experienced hard work, sleepless nights, and hunger. <sup>6</sup> We displayed purity, knowledge, patience, and generosity. We served with the Holy Spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup> telling the truth, and God's power. We carried the weapons of righteousness in our right hand and our left hand. <sup>8</sup> We were treated with honor and dishonor and with verbal abuse and good evaluation. We were seen as both fake and real, <sup>9</sup> as unknown and well known, as dying — and look, we are alive! We were seen as punished but not killed, <sup>10</sup> as going

through pain but always happy, as poor but making many rich, and as having nothing but owning everything.

## **Hebrew Lesson** **Joel 2:1-2, 12-17**

**2** Blow the horn in Zion; give a shout on my holy mountain! Let all the people of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming. It is near — **2** a day of darkness and no light, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread out upon the mountains, a great and powerful army comes, unlike any that has ever come before them, or will come after them in centuries ahead **12** Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your hearts, with fasting, with weeping, and with sorrow; **13** tear your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, very patient, full of faithful love, and ready to forgive. **14** Who knows whether he will have a change of heart and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God? **15** Blow the horn in Zion; demand a fast; request a special assembly. **16** Gather the people prepare a holy meeting; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the groom leave his room and the bride her chamber. **17** Between the porch and the altar let the priests, the Lord's ministers, weep. Let them say, "Have mercy, Lord, on your people, and don't make your inheritance a disgrace, an example of failure among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

### **MEDITATION**

### **MUSICAL REFLECTION**

GETTY

*"Jesus Draw Me Ever Nearer"*

Brandi Higgins

### **INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT**

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

LEADER: Lord, have mercy;

**PEOPLE: Christ, have mercy.<sup>1</sup>**

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES<sup>2</sup>

LEADER: ...In life and in death, you belong to God.

LEADER: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

**PEOPLE: That we may show forth the transformative power of your love.**

LEADER: By the life and death and transformation of Jesus Christ,

**PEOPLE: Bring our minds and hearts to such a depth of understanding that we, too, accept the full promise and challenge of your love.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

### †HYMN

#257

*“What Wondrous Love Is This”*

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!*

*When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down, sinking down; when I was sinking down beneath God’s righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!*

*To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb I will sing! To God and to the Lamb, who is the great “I AM,” while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing, while millions join the theme, I will sing!*

*And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and  
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! And when from death  
I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity I'll sing on,  
I'll sing on, and through eternity I'll sing on!*

## **BENEDICTION**

<sup>1</sup> "Before you, Jesus Christ." From Stages on the Way. Wild Good Worship Group. p. 25-26

<sup>2</sup> Submitted by Kathleen Sheets, Pastoral Intern, First Presbyterian Church, Maumee, OH  
Other liturgy used with permission from the PC (USA) Book of Common Worship. 2018



**NURSERY CARE** is available for infants and toddlers during the worship service. Our nursery is equipped with a paging system, and quality childcare is provided by Elaine Edwards who is infant and child CPR trained.

**WEEKLY SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER:** This Lent we will practice "spiritual disciplines" that strengthen our walk with Jesus and with one another. To help cultivate our spiritual discipline of *prayer*, Pastor Jamie will hold a weekly service of morning prayer online during Lent. The next service will take place on Wednesday, March 9 at 9:00 a.m. The service will be streamed on the church's Facebook and YouTube pages. This brief (8-12 minute) service will help us start

our Wednesdays together in prayer for one another, for our communities, and for the world. Online participants will be able to share their prayer concerns utilizing the comment box on Facebook.

**LENTEN WEEKDAY PRAYER & REFLECTION:** During the week, the sanctuary will be open for prayer and reflection Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Written and visual prompts will be available to help you engage more deeply in the spiritual discipline from the previous Sunday. You are also welcome to simply come and sit in the stillness of the sanctuary.

**PRAYER & PRACTICE STATIONS:** To assist us in our exploration and practice of various spiritual disciplines during Lent, a series of prayer and practice stations will be set up in the chapel (outside the rear exit of the sanctuary). Each station will focus on a different discipline and provide a hands-on way to engage in that practice. There will be five to six stations available at a time and they will change throughout the season. These stations will be accessible during office hours (Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.), so feel free to come in whenever you have time. This will also provide space for folks who want to engage in these practices but are wary of being around a lot of people at one time. We also plan to have some “go-to” practices that will be available at the DeWitt Street entrance for you to pick up.

**LENTEN PRAYER WALL:** One of the most important ways that we care for one another is through prayer. Each week we publish a prayer list with the names of our friends and family. Our “Wings of Prayer” group keeps a list of around 20 names in prayer each month. We are given the opportunity to share names with one another on Sunday as they are lifted up in the “Prayers of the People.” Prayer is a spiritual discipline that many of us are comfortable with, and others may like to practice more. A prayer wall will be available outside of the sanctuary during Lent for our Westminster family to share our prayer concerns with one another. Once you have added your prayer request to the wall you are encouraged to take a slip of paper from

the wall that has someone else’s concern on it to pray for that week. The next week it can be returned to the wall and another request is chosen.

## *Lenten Calendar*

**Wednesday, March 9**

**9:00 a.m.**

Weekly Service of Morning Prayer

**Sunday, April 10**

**10:30 a.m.**

Children’s Easter Pageant

**Thursday, April 14**

**7:00 p.m.**

Maundy Thursday Worship Service

**Friday, April 15**

**7:00 p.m.**

Good Friday Worship Service

**Saturday, April 16**

**4:00 p.m.**

Outdoor Easter Story Walk

**5:00 p.m.**

Outdoor Easter Vigil

**Sunday, April 17**

**8:00 a.m.**

Easter Sunday Worship Service

**9:00 a.m.**

Easter Breakfast

**10:30 a.m.**

Easter Sunday Worship Service

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