

A SERVICE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

March 6, 2019 7:00 p.m.

Stone Presbyterian Church

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively)

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness!

“Yet even now,” says the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.”

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

+HYMN #2138 “Sunday’s Palms Are Wednesday’s Ashes”

(+Those who are able may stand.)

+INVITATION

+HYMN #2137 “Would I Have Answered When You Called?”

PSALM 51 (Responsively)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

According to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

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

Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,

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

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

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

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

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 to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

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

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

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

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

LITANY OF PENITENCE (UNISON)

Most holy and merciful Father: We confess to you and to one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. 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.

Have mercy on us, O Lord.

We have resisted your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We confess to you, O Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

We confess to you, O Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

We confess to you, O Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

We confess to you, O Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

We confess to you, O Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

We confess to you, O Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

Accept our repentance, O Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

Accept our repentance, O Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

Accept our repentance, O Lord.

Restore us, O Lord, for your mercy is great. Accomplish in us the work of your salvation, that we may show forth your glory in the world.

SPECIAL MUSIC “There Is a Balm in Gilead” Rob Kolb

THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

TIME FOR REFLECTION AND PRAYER

Write or draw on the paper something you want to let go of or change during Lent. When you are finished, you are invited to burn the paper up front and form a circle.

+IMPOSITION OF ASHES

When you have received the ashes, you may return to your seat.

A TIME OF SILENCE

+HYMN #280 “Amazing Grace”

+BENEDICTION AND DEPARTURE IN SILENCE



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