

First Presbyterian Church

Ash Wednesday



Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

“Store Up” Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Lifting Up Our Hearts

God of Righteousness, you see the secret acts of our devotion and know the hidden motives of our hearts. Confirm in us a spirit of humble obedience, that without regard to earthly honor we may live as your faithful children and receive the treasure of eternal life with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gathering Up

Music for Centering

“Wondrous Love”

arr. Gregg Sewell

Welcome and Announcements

Entering God’s Presence

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

Thurlow Weed, 2008

Lord, who throughout these forty days

For us did fast and pray,

Teach us with thee to mourn our sins,

And close by thee to stay.

And through these days of penitence,

And through thy Passion-tide,

Yea, evermore, in life and death,

Jesus with us abide.

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Come into the light!

People: We know the darkness better. The Light frightens us.

Leader: Come into the presence of Love.

People: Our fears and doubts overwhelm us. We feel unable to move.

Leader: Come let God’s love wash away your sorrow.

People: Please help us. We are filled with fear and sorrow. Bring us healing. Amen.

We Acknowledge What’s Up***Call to Confession**

**When I am down and, oh my soul, so weary
When troubles come and my heart burdened be
Then, I am still and wait here in the silence
Until You come and sit awhile with me**

**You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas
I am strong, when I am on Your shoulders
You raise me up to more than I can be**

Words and Music by Brendan Graham and Rolf Lovland
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***Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God, we come before you knowing that change must happen
in our lives. But at times facing those changes feels overwhelming. We
feel the external expectations that distract and draw us into less
important pursuits. In this moment of quiet, we lift up to you those
things we’d like to give up for good ... for the sake of The Good.
Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: In the name of Christ, we are forgiven.

People: In the name of Christ, we are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen!

***Response Hymn**

“Change My Heart, O God”

#695

The Word Uplifts**Prayer for Illumination****Scripture Reading**

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Music for Soaring

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God” Gwendolyn Emery-Owings, 2009

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation.
Lord, open my mouth, so I may sing thy praises.

Meditation

“Store Up”

Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

Up to Something Good: An Ash Wednesday Ritual

“Let My Prayers Rise Up”

Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be - fore you, the
lifting up of my hands as an of-fering to you.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is simple and lyrical, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff ends with a fermata over the final note, and the second staff continues the melody and ends with a double bar line.

Text: Psalm 141; Marty Haugen
Music: *Holden Evening Prayer*, Marty Haugen
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Leader: The imposition of ashes ... Let our ashes this day remind us of how precious is our time together on this earth.

People: Let my prayer rise up ...

Imposition of Ashes

Prayer after Imposition

Building Up

*Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;

through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Invitation to Offering

*Response

“What R U Up 2 for My Sake?”

What are you up to for my sake? What are you up to "for the
Good?" Would you come now, follow, join, up? Let us take up, wake up a -
new; Let us build up, fill up with you! Let us lift up the gifts we
raise up. For the sake of, for the shape of, heaven on earth.

Words: Dr. Marcia McFee
Used by permission from Worship Design Studio.

*Prayer of Dedication

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

(We will be receiving communion by coming forward to one of the two stations on each side of the communion table. Please exit the pews to the center aisle and return to the pews from the outside aisles. An elder or deacon will be available to serve communion to those who wish to remain seated. Gluten-free bread can be found on the communion table.)

***Invitation to the Lord's Table**

***Hymn of Invitation** "You Are My Strength When I Am Weak" #519

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: May God be with you.

People: May God be also with you.

Leader: People of God, open your hearts.

People: We open our hearts to God and to each other.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Living God.

People: With joy and praise, we offer our thanks to the One who offers abundant life.

Leader: In the morning ... we lift our praises to you now and forever:

People: Holy, holy, holy are you, God of all knowledge.

All creation sings glad praises to you.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who came for our sake.

Hosanna in the highest!

Leader: Holy are you ... may we find that mystery we call faith:

People: Christ died, not boasting in himself;

Christ is risen, the gospel living in him;

Christ will come to take us by the hand, giving us strength.

Leader: Here is that Bread ... God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Generous Lord, in word and feast we have proclaimed the mystery of your love: help us so to live out our days that we may be signs of your wonders in the world. Through Jesus Christ our Savior we pray. Amen.

Living It Up

***Closing Hymn** “Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said” #718

***Blessing for the Journey**

***Congregational Response** “On Eagle’s Wings” (refrain) #43

***Music for Movin’ on Up**
“O Dearest Jesus” Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Pastors: Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood
Dr. Mark A. Johnson
Steve Watters

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd
Organist: Carol Welk