

Ash Wednesday



Central Presbyterian Church

*A Service of Healing, Prayers,
The Application of Ashes,
& The Lord's Supper*

Worship Leader: Rev. Timothy Reeves

February 26, 2020

6:00 P.M.

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

JOHN 3:17, PSALM 46:1 - 3

Let us worship God. God sent Christ into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

God's love endures forever.

God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear

**though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
though the waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.**

God's love endures forever.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (UNISON)

Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who ask for forgiveness. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that truly repenting of our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness. We pray through your son Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the Good News! I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Rejoice in God's promises. Please turn to those around you, say to them "The peace of the Lord be with you," and receive their words in turn, "And also with you."

***HYMN**

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me;
see, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Refrain:

*Come home, come home;
you who are weary come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, O sinner, come home!*

O for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me.

Refrain

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

³“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call

this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 6:1 – 6, 16 - 21

“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Repairing the Breach

Rev. Timothy Reeves

APPLICATION OF ASHES

The marking of believers' foreheads with ashes is an ancient solemn ceremony, based on the words of Genesis 3:19: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” During the 40 days of Lent we are reminded of our utter dependence on God's grace and mercy, just as Jesus was during his 40 days in the wilderness. If you wish to take part in this ritual, please come forward at this time. After you have received the sign of the cross, please return to your seat in solemn silence. If there are those who wish to participate but coming forward is difficult or not possible, please let the minister know so he may come to you.

*HYMN

There is a Place of Quiet Rest

There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God,
A place where sin cannot molest, near to the heart of God.

Refrain:

*O Jesus, blest redeemer, sent from the heart of God,
Hold us, who wait before thee, near to the heart of God.*

There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God,
A place where we our Saviour meet, near to the heart of God.

Refrain

There is a place of full release, near to the heart of God,
A place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God.

Refrain

Invitation to the Lord's Table

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Therefore, with all of creation, the heavenly angels, and all saints, we join our voices in praise, saying:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Great is the mystery of faith ...

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Glory to God, from whom all love flows, glory to Jesus who showed his love through suffering, and glory to the Holy Spirit who brings light to the darkest places.

God, our Creator, we are held in your everlasting arms.

Jesus, our Savior, we are healed by your wounded hands.

Holy Spirit, be present as we reach out to one another in love.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE STORY

Friends, these are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Let us keep the feast.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE POURING OF THE WINE

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

If you wish to participate in communion, please come forward at this time. Break off a piece of bread, dip into the chalice, and eat. Then please return to your seat in solemn silence. If there are those who wish to receive the elements but coming forward is difficult or not possible, please let the minister know so we may come to you.

PRAYER

Watch now, dear Lord, with those who wake or watch or weep tonight, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend your sick ones, O Lord Christ; rest your weary ones, bless your dying ones, soothe your suffering ones, pity your afflicted ones, shield your joyous ones, and all for your love's sake. Amen.

*Hymn

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

God be with you till we meet again,

Loving counsels guide, uphold you;

With a shepherd's care enfold you:

God be with you till meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;

Keep love's banner floating o'er you;

Smite death's threatening wave before you:

God be with you till we meet again.

THE BLESSING AND THE CHARGE

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED. PLEASE GO BACK INTO THE WORLD IN SOLEMN SILENCE AS CHRIST'S HUMBLE SERVANTS.