



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASH WEDNESDAY

Sacrament of Holy Communion
14 February 2024 + 6:30 p.m.

Welcome

Voluntary

Contemplation

Felix Mendelssohn

***Call to Worship**

Maeven O'Reilly

Leader: We come to worship God as the Lenten season begins, aware of our frailty and our failings.

People: **We come seeking God's mercy, acknowledging our mortality.**

Leader: Having received the waters of baptism, we are marked now with ashes.

People: **Let us walk this way with integrity and hope knowing that we belong to God.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the One to whom we belong.

***Processional Hymn 450**

Be Thou My Vision

Slane

***Litany of Confession**

Lily Hill and Luke McNutt

Leader: Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.
We have many treasures on earth that we hold dearly.

People: **When we sin against neighbor, condone injustice, and quarrel with one another.**

Leader: We sin against you.

People: **Forgive us, we pray, for we are broken in spirit. Do not see us for our faults, and do not go away from us.**

Leader: Keep us always in your presence.
So that we may be restored to the joy of your salvation.

People: **Sustain us in a willing spirit to treasure what you desire; Then our hearts will be opened in joy and gladness.**

Leader: Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

***Sung Response**

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

Hymnal, Back Cover

***Declaration of Pardon
and Passing of the Peace**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us greet one another with the sign of peace.

***Response of Praise**

Gloria Patri

Hymnal, Back Cover

Anthem

Dust and Ashes Touch Our Face

Daniel Hass

Dust and ashes touch our face,
mark our failure and our falling.
Holy Spirit, come, walk with us tomorrow,
take us as disciples, washed and wakened by your calling.
Refrain: Take us by the hand and lead us,
lead us through the desert sands,
bring us living water, Holy Spirit, come.

First Scripture Reading

Psalm 51:1-17

Sam Berkowitz

Leader: God, you desire truth in the inward being,
therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
People: **Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**
Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and
right spirit within me.
People: **Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.**
Leader: Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain in me a willing spirit.
People: **O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.**
Leader: For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a
burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
People: **The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit.
A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 6:16-21

Meditation

Broken and Contrite Heart

Rev. Christian K. Choi

Musical Reflection

Create in Me a Clean Heart

John Carter

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 your free Spirit. Psalm 51

Meaning of Holy Communion

Connor Hill

Leader: We come to the gracious table of the Lord spread before us as a gift of grace, and a visible sign of the love we are offered in Christ. As we receive the bread and the cup, we remember Jesus offered his body and blood when he died on the cross. Jesus brings healing & wholeness to our lives.

People: **Lord, we remember your gift of healing and wholeness as we share in the bread of life and cup of salvation.**

Meaning of the Ashes

Diana Choi

Leader: We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. The ashes come from the branches of last year's palms. This sign reminds us of our humanity, the uncertainty of our days, the certainty of our loving Creator, and the need for healing and wholeness.

People: **Lord, we remember we are created by you and belong to you in life and in death.**

Meaning of Hearts

Paislee Reicht

Leader: Jesus said where our treasures are, there our hearts will be also. May the stone hearts we carry into our Lenten journey be a reminder to consider the things we treasure in our hearts. May we hold justice, peace, and joy in our hearts. May our hearts be open and honest as we seek healing and wholeness.

People: **Lord, we remember that where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also.**

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution

The Imposition of the Ashes and Communion of the People

*Worshippers are invited to come forward for the
Imposition of Ashes and to receive Communion.
Take a piece of bread and dip it into the cup.
Receive a stone heart as a reminder of our priorities.*

*Prayer after Communion

**Holy and Loving God, who joined us in our humanity in
Jesus Christ, we are grateful for the nourishment we
receive at your table to strengthen us for our journey into
Lent. As we depart, may the sign of the ashes remind us
of our humanity and the stone heart we carry remind us
to treasure you. May we give our best, open our hearts to
one another, and walk with integrity all the days of our
lives. Amen.**

*Hymn 547

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Ar Hyd y Nos

*Blessing and Charge

*Voluntary

Prelude in b-flat minor

J. S. Bach

() The congregation is invited to stand.*

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE:

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer, Rev. Christian K. Choi, Dale T. Rogers, Katie Moore, Bridges children

CHILDREN'S CHOIR:

Juniper Berkowitz, Sam Berkowitz, Diana Choi, Lily Hill, Luke McNutt, Charlotte Moore, Maeven
O'Reilly, Chandler Reicht, Paisley Reicht, Eva Volle

ELDERS SERVING COMMUNION:

Dave Jenkins, Tim Kluge, Mike Nenaber, Julie Robbs, Jeanne VanGieson, Brinton Wilkey

THE COMMUNION BREAD is classic dough and was lovingly prepared by Susan Shaw.

DEACON USHERS:

Sabrina Holmes, Camille Massey, Coleman Moore, and Erin Winn

We give special thanks to: Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz, Co-Director for Children's Ministry for leading Midweek Bridges and Katie Moore, Director for Children's Music, for leading our choir.