# WESTMINSTER
## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
## ASH WEDNESDAY
Sacrament of Holy Communion
05 March 2025 + 6:30 p.m.

**Welcome**

**Voluntary** Etude in g minor — Moritz Moszkowski

***Call to Worship** — Sam Berkowitz

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.

***Hymn 676** Day is Done — *Ar Hyd y Nos*

***Litany of Confession** — August Ekstedt

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.

***Choral Response** Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying — Children Praying

***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** We Are Singing for the Lord is Our Light — Zulu Melody

**First Scripture Reading** Psalm 91 — Lily Hill

Leader: You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty
**People:** **will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress;**
**my God, in whom I trust."**
Leader: Because you have made the LORD your sanctuary
the Most High your dwelling place,
**People:** **no evil shall befall you,**
**no harm will come near you.**
Leader: For God will command God's angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
**People:** **On their hands they will bear you up,**
**so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.**
Leader: Those who love God, God will deliver;
and will protect those who know God's name.
**People:** **When they call on God, God will answer them,**
**will rescue them, and will honor them.**

**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

**Second Scripture Reading** 1 Kings 19:11-15a

**Meditation** But the Lord Wasn't In Rev. Sarah A. Bishop

**Meaning of Holy Communion** Roscoe Ekstedt

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** Lily Hill

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 that we are created by you and belong to you in life and in death.**

**Meaning of Votives** Abi Velásquez Alonso

Leader: We find comfort and strength in the promise that we live in the light of God's presence. May the votive candle we carry into our Lenten journey be a reminder of the sanctuary we find in the God who brought light into our lives through Christ.

**People:** **Lord, we remember that you call us to live in the light.**

**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.**

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| Words of Institution | | |
| The Imposition of the Ashes and Communion of the People | *Worshipers are invited to come forward for the Imposition of Ashes and to receive Communion.*<br>*Take a piece of bread and dip it into the cup.*<br>*Receive a votive candle as a reminder of God's sanctuary.* | |
| *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 votive candle we carry remind us of the sanctuary we find in you. May we open our hearts to one another and walk with integrity all the days of our lives. Amen.** | |
| *Hymn 749 | Come! Live in the Light | *We Are Called* |
| *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. Sarah A. Bishop, Dale T. Rogers, Bridges children

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR:**

Juniper Berkowitz, Sam Berkowitz, Lily Hill, Eva Volle

**ELDERS SERVING COMMUNION:**

Vonnie Hinesley, Joe Fierstos, Vena Long, Amanda Maddox-Wenthe, Pat McNutt, Lyle VanDeventer

**THE COMMUNION BREAD** is classic soft wheat and was lovingly prepared by Susan Day.

**DEACON USHERS:**

Greg Boutelle, Christian Kennerly, Cathy Yokley

We give special thanks to: Meleah Berkowitz, Co-Director for Children's Ministry for leading Midweek Bridges and Dale Rogers, for directing our Children's Choir.