ASH
WEDNESDAY
worship service
2.26.20 • noon

East Liberty Presbyterian Church
www.ELPC.church
Order Of Worship

Ash Wednesday

Prelude

Call To Worship

Leader: Welcome to a season of self-examination; this is a time for reconciliation with God and neighbor.

People: Welcome together, siblings, to meet God, longing for the abundant mercy of our Creator.

Leader: Seek to know God’s presence here and everywhere; let the wisdom of God guide you in truth.

People: Through hardship, affliction, and calamity, we reach for the power of God to steady us.

Leader: Prepare yourselves for a period of testing. Be open to the grace that enables your growth.

People: With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning, we seek the steadfast love of God.

* Opening Hymn (printed in bulletin) Restoration

“Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”

Prayer of the Day

Leader: Gracious and ever-living God, you love everything you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness though your son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore.

People: Amen.

Hebrew Scripture Lesson

The Rev. Dr. Angela Hancock

Psalm 51:1-17

Hymn (printed in bulletin) Kingsfold

“Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples”

* Indicates where to please rise in body or spirit.
SCRIPTURE LESSON
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:13

HOMILY
The Rev. Schoenewolf
“Hard Conversations”

LITANY OF CONFESSION
The Rev. Dr. Hancock
Leader: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your faithful love! According to your great mercy, wipe away our wrongdoings. For we have sinned against you, choosing comfort over compassion, and selfish gain over service. With delight, you knit us together in secret and gave us hearts for love. But so often these hearts lust after the empty gods of this world and cause you distress.

People: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God, for we tear away at your vision of shalom. You yearn for creation to flourish, but we privilege our own security over the welfare of others. Rather than breaking the yoke, we are complicit in systems that oppress. Rather than sharing your abundance, we satisfy our own hearts and sate our own appetites. We pass by those who are desperate, when we could offer refuge or respite. We overlook those who are downtrodden, when we could offer comfort or care.

People: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God, renew our spirits and transform our lives. Purge our hearts and homes, our community and country of words that diminish and actions that harm. Draw near to us that we might draw near to you – not with superficial repentance, but with a deep desire to walk in your ways. Restore to us salvation’s joy, O God, and set us on the path of justice and righteousness, so that our light might break forth like the dawn.

People: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Amen.
Siblings in Christ, every year at the beginning of Lent we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life and marks the sincere penitence of this community.

I invite you to observe a holy Lent by self-examination, prayer, and fasting, by works of love, reading and meditating on the Word of God, and through service to others.

* HYMN (printed in bulletin)  
“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION  
The Rev. Schoenewolf
PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE

Preaching: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Associate Pastor

Liturgists: The Rev. Dr. Angela Hancock
Associate professor of homiletics and worship at
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Frances Wilson

Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Music Director
Pamela M. Kimmel
Cantor

Sound: Wayne Gaines

SPECIAL PRESENTATION FOLLOWING SERVICE

Following our service, join us in the McKelvy Room for lunch and a
discussion on the intersectionality of worship and theodicy, led by
the Rev. Dr. Angela Hancock.

The Rev. Dr. Hancock is the associate professor of homiletics and
worship at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and author of Karl
Barth’s Emergency Homiletic, 1932–1933: A Summons to Prophetic Witness
at the Dawn of the Third Reich. She is an ordained Minister of Word
and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and has served
as pastor to churches in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

Later this evening, the Taizé Prayer service at 7 pm will continue the
focus on preparing our spirits and souls for the Lenten season with
the imposition of ashes and sung and silent prayers.

FACING SYSTEMIC RACISM LENTEN BOOK STUDY

As part of our focus on Facing Systemic Racism, the Mission Board
encourages ELPC members and friends to embrace all aspects of Lent
by engaging in an intentional read and weekly discussion of Pastor
Daniel Hill’s book White Awake: An Honest Look at What It Means to be
White, beginning Sunday, March 1 at Noon in the McKelvy Room.
Copies of the book will be available for purchase and a light lunch will
be served. Childcare is available with reservation one week prior.
Contact Sara Hackett for details (SaraH@coh.net).
COME, YE SINNERS, POOR AND NEEDY

1 Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded,
sick and sore; Jesus ready stands to save you,
full of pity, love, and power.
go to Jesus; he will embrace me in his arms. In the

2 Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome; God's free bounty
glorify, true belief and true repentance,
every grace that brings you nigh.

3 Come, ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined
by the fall; if you tarry till you're better,
you will never come at all. I will arise and
is to feel your need of him.

4 Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness
fondly dream; all the fitness he requireth

Refrain

All or Leader
arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

The differing voices of this text indicate that its parts were not created together. The stanzas are cast in the voice of a preacher or exhorter, but the refrain (added later) takes the voice of a penitent heeding that call in language like that of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:18).

TEXE: Stanzas, Joseph Hart, 1759, alt.; refrain, anon.  
MUSIC: Walker's Southern Harmony, 1835  
RESTORATION  
8.7.8.7 with refrain
1 Today we all are called to be disciples of the
2 God made the world and at its birth ordained our human
3 Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty
4 May we in service to our God act out the living

Lord, to help to set the captive free, make
race to live as stewards of the earth, re-
stream, with righteousness in field and town to
word, and walk the road the saints have trod till

plow-share out of sword, to feed the hungry, quench their
sponding to God’s grace. But we are vain and sadly
cleanse us and redeem. For God is longing to re-
all have seen and heard. As stewards of the earth may

This text placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister
to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled “Called to Be Disciples.” The tune name recalls the Sussex
village where the arranger first heard the melody.

TEXT: H. Kenn Carmichael, 1985
MUSIC: English County Songs, 1893; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
Text © 1989 H. Kenn Carmichael

CCLI #689547
thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the
proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord
store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that
we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who

poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.
spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.
was cre - at - ed for a har - mo - ny of peace.
calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.
CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD

Capo 5: (F) (Gsus) (G) (C) (Em7) (F) (A7)
Bb C G7 Am7 Bb D7

1 Create in me a clean heart, O God; create in me a clean heart, O God;
2 Cast me not away from your presence; cast me not away from your presence;
3 Restore to me the joy of your salvation; restore to me the joy of your salvation;

(D) (D7) (G) (Dm)
G G7 C Gm

and restore to me the joy of your salvation, and upnew a right spirit with in me.

(E) (E7) (Am) (E7) (Am)
A A7 Dm A7 Dm

take not your Holy Spirit from me.

(Am7) (Em) (G) (C) [(Em)]
Gm7 Am C F [Am]

hold me with your free Spirit.

The text here comes from Psalm 51:10-12, three verses that illustrate the pattern of parallels often found in Hebrew poetry. The first verse here centers on positive actions, the second on avoidance of negative actions, and the third on providing an improved spiritual condition.

TEXT: Sara, John Carter, 1997
MUSIC: John Carter, 1997
Text and Music © 1997 Hope Publishing Company CCLI #689547
Lenten Devotionals Now Available

Once more, the Children and Family Ministries Team has purchased devotional materials to encourage you along your Lenten journey.

*Treasures in Jars of Clay* is a devotional created for families of all ages and configurations, but also can be engaged by individuals looking for a personal prayer practice.

Materials will be available outside of each worship service and on the second floor table. There will be additional “supplies” in the Kids Corner for those who may need assistance gathering the hands-on materials that are a part of the devotional exercises. We ask that you take one booklet per family unit.
We invite you to continue your journey with us again during any of our Holy Week and Easter worship services:

Wednesday Taizé Stations of the Cross Service, April 8 at 7 pm
Maundy Thursday, April 9 at 7 pm
Good Friday, April 10 at 12 Noon
Good Friday Tenebrae Service, April 10 at 7 pm
Saturday Easter Vigil, April 11 at 7 pm
Easter Sunday, April 12 at 8:45 am and 11 am