



ASH

Wednesday

February 17, 2021
Noon • Zoom



**East Liberty
Presbyterian Church**

www.ELPC.church

116 South Highland Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412.441.3800

www.ELPC.church

Order Of Worship

Ash Wednesday

CALL TO WORSHIP

Kathryn Ophardt

Leader: In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John. On this day we gather virtually, to remember his story, to offer our worship and to give witness to our faith.

People: Gather us in, O God. As we prepare to worship from locations near and far.

Leader: Jesus began a brave new journey; may we be willing to embrace new paths and new ways.

People: Gather us in and invite us to venture into the time of reflection, repentance, and remembrance, O God.

Leader: Knowing that Jesus would have begun this journey with human fears and apprehensions, we find the freedom to admit that we are not always courageous.

People: Gather us in and give us courage, O God.

Leader: Jesus remained open to the Spirit all the way, so as we gather to hear the familiar stories of Lent and Easter, may we be willing to hear them address us in new ways.

People: Gather us in and grant to us receptive hearts and minds, O God.

An Adaption of Ann Siddall, Stillpoint Spirituality Centre

OPENING HYMN (*lyrics included below*)

GLASER

“Walk With Me, Lord”

Walk with me, Lord, walk with me

Walk with me, Lord, walk with me

While I’m on this tedious journey

I want Jesus to walk with me

Be my friend, Lord, be my friend

Be my friend, Lord, be my friend

While I’m on this tedious journey

I want Jesus to walk with me

Hold my hand, Lord, hold my hand
Hold my hand, Lord, hold my hand
While I'm on this tedious journey
I want Jesus to walk with me
Walk with me, Lord, walk with me
Walk with me, Lord, walk with me
While I'm on this tedious journey
I want Jesus to walk with me
I want Jesus to walk with me
I want Jesus to walk with me

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Kathryn Ophardt

Leader: Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of everyone who trusts in you. 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; through your Son, Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Psalm 51:1-12

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

HYMN (*lyrics included below*)

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”

**Create in me a clean heart
And purify me, purify me
Create in me a clean heart
So I may worship thee**

**Create in me a clean heart
And purify me, purify me
Create in me a clean heart
So I may worship thee**

**Cast me not away from thy presence
Please don't take your spirit from me
And restore the joy of salvation
So that I may worship thee**

**Create in me a clean heart
And purify me, purify me
Create in me a clean heart
So I may worship thee**

**Cast me not away from thy presence
Please don't take your spirit from me
And restore the joy of salvation
So that I may worship thee**

**Cast me not away from thy presence
Please don't take your spirit from me
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HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Genesis 4:1-15

Now the man knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have produced a man with the help of the Lord." Next she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground. In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel for his part brought of the firstlings of his flock, their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it."

Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let us go out to the field." And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him. Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" And the Lord said, "What have you done? Listen; your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground! And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth."

Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear! Today you have driven me away from the soil, and I shall be hidden from your face; I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and anyone who meets me may kill me." Then the Lord said to him, "Not so! Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold vengeance." And the Lord put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came upon him would kill him.

HOMILY

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

LITANY OF PENITENCE

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Leader: Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness. For the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives. For our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: For our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves. For our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work. For our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty. For false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us. For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: Forgive and restore us, O God of our salvation, and show us your everlasting and steadfast love.

People: **Turn to us in your mercy and redeem us. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Schoenewolf

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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 our sincere penitence as individuals and as a community of followers of Christ.

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.

IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

PRAYER AFTER THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Leader: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

People: **that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

Leader: By the cross and passion of our Savior,

People: **bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection. Amen.**

HYMN (*lyrics included below*)

"Be Unto Your Name"

We are a moment, you are forever

Lord of the ages, God before time

We are a vapor, you are eternal

Love everlasting, reigning on high

Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, worthy is the Lamb

Who was slain, highest praises, honor, and glory

Be unto your name, be unto your name

We are the broken, you are the healer
Jesus, Redeemer, mighty to save
You are the love song we'll sing forever
Bowing before you, blessing your name

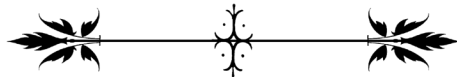
Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, worthy is the Lamb
Who was slain, highest praises, honor, and glory
Be unto your name, be unto your name

Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, worthy is the Lamb
Who was slain, highest praises, honor, and glory
Be unto your name, be unto your name

Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, worthy is the Lamb
Who was slain, highest praises, honor, and glory
Be unto your name, be unto your name
Be unto your name, be unto your name

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy



PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching: **The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy**, *Associate Pastor*
Liturgists: **The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf**, *Associate Pastor*
Kathryn Ophardt, *Seminary Intern*
Musicians: **Michael Warren**, *Journey Music Director*
Sound: **Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines**