

ASH WEDNESDAY

TAIZÉ PRAYER



WEDNESDAY
March 2, 2022
7:00 pm

 **East Liberty
Presbyterian Church**

www.ELPC.church

116 South Highland Ave ♦ Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412.441.3800 ♦ www.ELPC.church

SPIRITUAL LIFE EVENTS

Contemplative Prayer

Join Rev. BJ Woodworth on Zoom during the season of Lent for Contemplative Prayer, involving the reading of a Psalm and Centering Prayer (20 minutes of silence), in community with one another.

Mondays, 7:30 am to 8 am

Meeting ID #959 8065 3992 • Passcode: bestill

Cathedral Yoga

Yamuna will lead yoga in-person in the Sanctuary before the 7 pm Taizé Prayer service.

Wednesdays, 6 to 7 pm

Journey Dance

Enjoy an evening of healthy, energizing, funky and divine dancing on the 3rd Friday of every month (with a few exceptions).

Third Friday of every month (mostly), 6:30-7:45 pm

Mar 18, Apr 15, May 13

Lenten Silent Retreat

We invite you to come away with God in the middle of the Lenten season for a weekend of quiet and rest at St. Emma's Retreat House in Greensburg from Friday, March 18 at 5 pm to Sunday, March 20 at Noon.

The cost is \$150 (scholarships available). Contact Pastor BJ (BJW@coh.net) for details. Spots are limited; RSVP to Norma (Norma@coh.net) by Sunday, March 13.

Spring Yoga and Creation Contemplation classes

In March and April, Katrina Woodworth will teach one class on Wednesdays from 8-9 am. Winter is waning and Spring is around the corner. Seasonally and spiritually, we are entering into Lent, Easter and Spring. What better way to transition than to get on our mat and be in touch with our bodies! Inspired by the PC(USA) *Lent Daily Reflection Calendar*, our yoga practice, readings and meditations will focus in on caring for creation in solidarity with Christ's sacrifice and resurrection!

Please remember — classes are recorded. If you can't attend live classes, recordings will be sent to everyone who registers each week. I hope that you will be able to take the class at a time that is convenient for you. If you do take the class and are able, please consider making a donation through Venmo or PayPal. Venmo/PayPal links are listed in the registration confirmation.

Enneagram Study Group

Join facilitator Lynn Holden on the third Mondays of March through June (begins March 21) and Sept through Dec, from 12:30-1:30 pm on Zoom (www.Zoom.us; Meeting ID: 966 6904 5127, Passcode: 9types) for an Enneagram Study Group. The Required book is *The Sacred Enneagram: Finding Your Path to Spiritual Growth* by Christopher L. Heuertz.

ELPC EVENTS

Taizé Podcast Now Available

If you are unable to come to our Taizé services in person on Wednesdays at 7 pm, stream or download a 15-minute contemplative recording each week. Each podcast includes a brief time of centering, music, a meditation, and a closing prayer. You can find a link to listen to the recordings at www.ELPC.church, in our *This Week in Worship* email news flash each Friday, or in our new app.

Church Tours — March 6 and 20

Join us on March 6 for a tour of the Sanctuary and Chapel; and again on March 20 for a tour of the tower. Please wear closed-toe walking shoes for the tower tour. Both tours begin after the 11 am Sanctuary worship service. Please gather in the Highland Lobby at the hospitality desk to join the tour guide.

Letter from Birmingham Jail (part 2) — March 13

Following the 11 am worship service on Sunday, March 13, the Facing Systemic Racism Committee will present the second session on The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s *Letter from Birmingham Jail*. Led by Dr. Beverly Harris-Schenz, we will explore a summary of one of the seminal issues in Dr. King's letter: "just" vs "unjust" laws.

Join us in person in the Social Hall or online at tiny.cc/mlk-letter-2. You also may call in by dialing 301.715.8592 and entering meeting ID 841 7387 8710 and passcode 442300. *Please note: The final session will be held on Saturday, April 9 at 6 pm. Together, we will explore Dr. King's disappointment in the white church of his day, and how that relates to our current reality.*

Support Our Winter Food Drive — March 20

Following 11 am worship on Sunday, March 20, the Neighbors Committee will host a *Winter Food Drive* in the staff parking lot on Baum Blvd. Requested donations include: canned or dried fruit, canned vegetables, cereal, crackers, individual fruit cups, jelly, peanut butter, pasta and sauces, rice, soups and broth, salt, seasonings, and spices. Contact Tim VanFleet (tavanfleet@gmail.com) or Pastor Patrice (patricefs@coh.net) for info.

LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering — March 27

Join us at our LGBTQ Ministry's next *Spiritual Gathering* — either in person at the church or online via Zoom on Sunday, March 27 at 12:30 pm. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are welcome — in fact we will be focusing on our wonderful allies during this time together! For more details or to attend, contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x118).



Ash Wednesday is not a day based on any event in the scriptures; it originated only in the 9th century. But the custom of a mark on the forehead and ashes as a sign of repentance and mourning have many scripture references.

In the Bible, a mark on the forehead is a symbol of a person's ownership. Having the forehead marked with the sign of a cross symbolizes that the person belongs to Jesus Christ, who died on a Cross. It is in imitation of the spiritual mark or seal that is put on a Christian in baptism, when s/he is delivered from slavery to sin and made a slave of righteousness and Christ. (*Rom. 6:3-18*)

Ashes are a biblical symbol of mourning and repentance. In Bible times the custom was to fast, wear sackcloth, sit in dust and ashes, and put dust and ashes on one's head. While we no longer wear sackcloth or sit in dust and ashes, the customs of fasting and putting ashes on one's forehead as a sign of mourning and repentance have survived to this day.

Whatever you will do this Lent: receive the sign of ashes, assume a spiritual discipline like prayer or meditation or fasting, God is not the one who benefits. These practices are for us, they are tools to make us more mindful and call us back every day to follow our Savior, Jesus Christ, more closely, more faithfully.

Ideally, we do our spiritual disciplines daily, but the observation of the Lenten season speaks to our human need; as a reminder to pause when we are always on the run, as a call to reflect when we are always busy "doing," as a need to repent when we have lost our way. "...Ash Wednesday, with its sober reminders of our mortality, is the door to a season when [we] are called to walk...into a Lenten wilderness where God is encountered and we confess our desperate need for God's reconciling love and our utter dependence upon God's redeeming grace." (*Evaline Clark, "Journal for Preachers, Lent 2004"*) The fact that we enter that wilderness from the resurrection side of the cross gives us added confidence to make the walk and, with the words of Psalm 51, to boldly ask God to "Create in us a clean heart, and put a new and right spirit within us."

We begin that Lenten wilderness season tonight as we sing our prayers and silently consider what burdens we need to set aside or what disciplines we need to take on.

Prelude by Taizé Musicians

Welcome and Opening Centering by Rev. BJ Woodworth

21 Stay With Us

♩ = 72

Gm *p* Cm D Gm Dm *mf*

Stay with us, O Lord Je - sus Christ, night will soon fall. Then
Bleib mit dei - ner Gna - de bei uns, Herr Je - su Christ. Ach,

Gm Eb Cm F Bb *f* Cm *p subito* Bb F Gm D

stay with us, O Lord Je - sus Christ, light in our dark - ness.
bleib mit dei - ner Gna - de bei uns, du treu - er Gott.

f *p subito*

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12 Wait For The Lord

Lento (♩ = 48)

Em *p* C Am⁶ B

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Em *mf* D G Am B Em

Wait for the Lord: be strong, — take heart!

The musical score is written for piano in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems. The first system has a tempo marking of 'Lento' and a quarter note equal to 48 beats. The chords are Em, C, Am6, and B. The lyrics are 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' The second system has chords Em, D, G, Am, B, and Em. The lyrics are 'Wait for the Lord: be strong, — take heart!'. The score includes dynamic markings of piano (p) and mezzo-forte (mf).

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Sung Response: CLM38 All My Heart

Vieš - pa - tie, tu vis - ką ži - nai. Tu ži -
 All my heart lies o - pen to you, and you

nai, kad ta - ve my liu.
 know, Lord, that I love you.

O O

(Last time)
(Last time)

D.C.

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Have mercy on us, living Lord,
 Remember not our sin.
 According to your steadfast love
 Come, cleanse us deep within.

ALL MY HEART ...

Our sin and guilt are heavy, Lord,
 And evil in your sight.
 Against you only have we sinned;
 Your judgment, Lord, is right.

ALL MY HEART ...

We're born into a guilty world
 And sinful in our ways.
 Lord, teach us wisdom in our hearts
 And lead us all our days.

ALL MY HEART ...

So come and purify our lives,
 Our hearts with love redeem.
 Restore us to your life-filled ways.
 Come, Lord, and make us clean.

ALL MY HEART ...

Your Spirit place within our hearts
 That we may teach your ways,
 And all the people of the earth
 Shall learn to sing your praise.

ALL MY HEART ...

You are not pleased with sacrifice,
 It brings you no delight.
 A humble spirit given in love
 Is pleasing in your sight.

ALL MY HEART ...

Rebuild your people with your love,
 Renew us every day;
 With hearts renewed, in all our work
 Our lives shall sing your praise.

ALL MY HEART ...

The Word: Isaiah 30:15-21

For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.

But you refused and said, “No! We will flee upon horses” — therefore you shall flee! and, “We will ride upon swift steeds” — therefore your pursuers shall be swift! A thousand shall flee at the threat of one, at the threat of five you shall flee, until you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill.

Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.

Truly, O people in Zion, inhabitants of Jerusalem, you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when he hears it, he will answer you. Though the Lord may give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself any more, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”

Silent Meditation *(5 to 10 minutes)*

Prayer By Brother Roger

Lord Jesus Christ, you change and transfigure our heart just as it is. You do not even ask us to uproot the weeds; you take care of that. With our own wounds, the thorns that hurt us, you light a fire — and a way forward opens in us to welcome your Spirit of compassion and the Spirit of praise that brings healing. So that what is most resistant in us, our failures, our refusals and our inner abysses, may be transfigured into energies of love and reconciliation, all you ask of us is that we welcome you and rejoice in the miracle of your forgiveness.

CLM9 God Is Forgiveness

Bóg jest mi - łość - cią miej - cie od - wa - gę żyć dla mi - łość - ci.
God is for - give - ness. Dare to for - give and God will be with you.

Bóg — jest mi - łość - cią. Nie lę - kaj - cie się.
God — is for - give - ness. Love, and do not fear.

Prayers of Intercession

(adapted from "Catch Me in My Scurrying" by Ted Loder, Guerrillas of Grace: Prayers for the Battle)

Sung Response: * To You I Pray, O Lord *(please see facing page for music)*

Catch me in my anxious scurrying, Lord, and hold me in this Lenten season: hold my feet to the fire of your grace that I may begin to die now to those things that keep me from living with you and with my neighbors on this earth.

TO YOU I PRAY, O LORD ...

That I may begin to die now to grudges and indifference, to certainties that smother possibilities,
to my fascination with false securities, to my addiction to sweatless dreams,
to my arrogant insistence on how it has to be;
to my corrosive fear of dying someday which eats away the wonder of living this day,
and the adventure of losing my life in order to find it in you.

TO YOU I PRAY, O LORD ...

Catch me in my aimless scurrying, Lord, and hold me in this Lenten season: hold my heart to the beat of your grace that I may become vulnerable enough to dare intimacy with the familiar, to listen cup-eared for your summons,
in the crying of a child, in the hunger of the street people,
in the rage of those oppressed because of sex or race,
in the smoldering resentments of exploited third world nations,
in the sullen apathy of the poor and ghetto-strangled people,
in my lonely doubt and limping ambivalence.

TO YOU I PRAY, O LORD ...

And somehow, during this season of sacrifice, enable me to sacrifice time and possessions and securities,
to do something ...
something about what I see,
something to turn the water of my words into the wine of will and risk,
into the bread of blood and blisters,
into the blessedness of deed, of a cross picked up, a Savior followed.

TO YOU I PRAY, O LORD ...



To You I Pray, O Lord

Brendan Dowd
Harm. by Helena O'Kane
Acc. by Ciaran McLoughlin

♩=120

Refrain

Capo 2: (D)

E

(G)
A

(C)
D

Melody

Harmony

To you I pray, O Lord;

To you I pray, O Lord; I

(Am)
Bm

(Am/G)
Bm/A

(D)
E

(G)
A

lift up my hands. My bod - y pines for

Last time to Coda ♪

(C)
D

(C/B)
D/C#

(Am7)
Bm7

(D)
E

(G)
A

To Verses

you like a dry and wea - ry land.

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Silent and Spoken Prayers

Please feel free to add your spoken petitions.

A note about praying for others out loud: Some people are comfortable with having their prayer concerns lifted up in public worship. Others are not. Before you share aloud any prayer concerns, please be sure that you are not breaking confidentiality.

Whether or not you say the person's name out loud, God hears and receives the intentions of your heart.

NB53 The Lord's Prayer

Our Fa - ther who art in heav - en, hal - lowed be thy name; thy king - dom come;

thy will be done, on earth as it is in heav - en. Give us this day our dai - ly bread;

for - give us our tres - pass - es as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us;

lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil. For thine is the King - dom,

and the pow - er, and the glo - ry, for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Prayer over the Anointing Oil *(in unison)*

We have an anointing station this evening for those seeking individual prayer to share joys or concerns. Any desiring prayer, and/or anointing with oil, are invited to come forward, waiting in the center aisle if the station is full.

Bless this oil, O Lord, pressed from the fruit of the earth. Let it be a holy ointment for the wounds and worries of those who receive it. May it be a sign to all of us of your constant desire to touch our lives and bring us to health and wholeness. Amen.

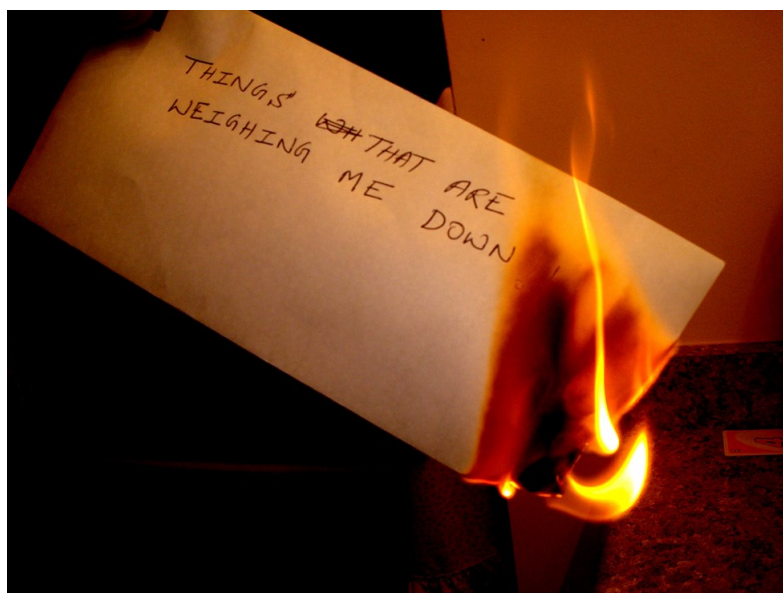
Burnt Offerings

Blank pieces of paper are provided in the bulletin.

You are invited to write on them those things that get in the way of your drawing nearer to God.

When you come forward for the imposition of ashes at the conclusion of the service, you may put your Lenten confessions in the basket on the table at the front of the worship space.

The slips of paper will be burned to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday next year, just as the ashes used tonight are from the confessions and intentions written last year.



38 My Soul Is At Rest

A Dm A^{SUS} A Dm C F C Dm A Dm

fine ◡

My soul is at rest in God a-lone, my sal-va-tion comes from God. My

fine ◡

CLM7 O God, Keep Me Safe

Be - hü - te mich, Gott, ich ver - trau - e dir, du
O God, keep me safe, for I trust in you. The

zeigt mir den Weg zum Le - ben. Bei dir ist
path - way to life you teach me. With you is

Freu - de, and Freu - de in all Fül - le. Be -
peace and joy in all full - ness. O

(♪) (♪ Last time)

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9 Bless The Lord

♩ = 76

Dm G Dm B \flat C F A

p

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Dm G Dm B \flat C Dm

p

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Bless The Lord'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system has a tempo marking of quarter note = 76. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The first system's lyrics are 'Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.' The second system's lyrics are 'Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.' Chord symbols are written above the treble staff: Dm, G, Dm, B-flat, C, F, A for the first system, and Dm, G, Dm, B-flat, C, Dm for the second. A piano (p) dynamic marking is present at the start of each system.

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* Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

He was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. — Hebrews 4:15

Traditional
Erna Moorman, 2nd stanza

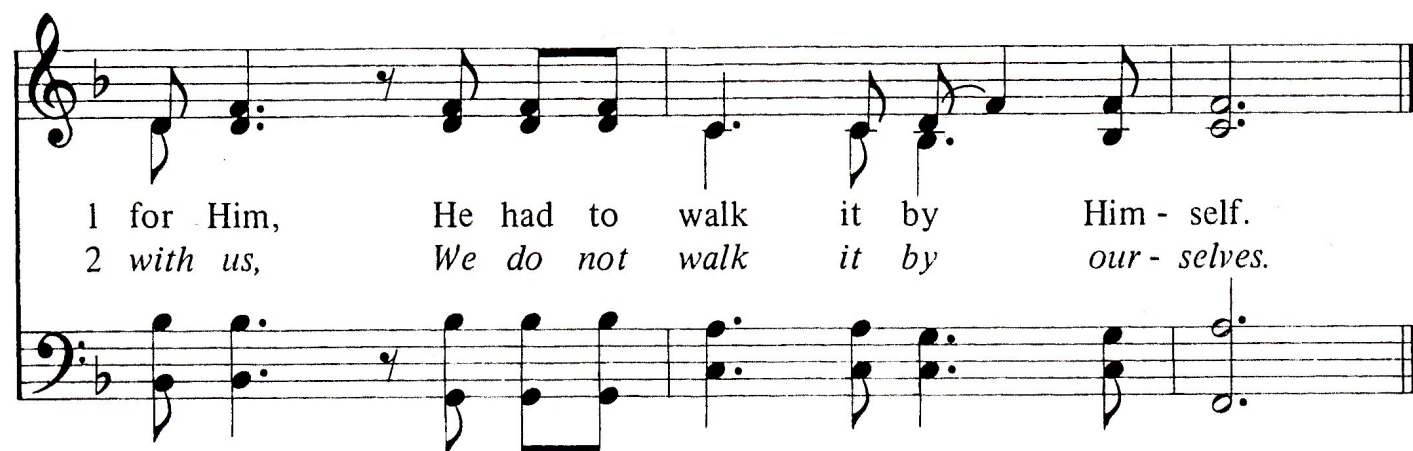
LONESOME VALLEY
Traditional Spiritual



1 Je - sus walked this lone - some val - ley, He had to
2 As we walk our lone - some val - ley, We do not



1 walk it by Him - self; O no - bod - y else could walk it
2 walk it by our - selves; For God sent His Son to walk it



1 for Him, He had to walk it by Him - self.
2 with us, We do not walk it by our - selves.

Second stanza © Copyright 1976 by Fred Bock Music Co. All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI #689547

Prayer Over The Ashes

Almighty God,
you have created us
out of the dust of the earth.
May these ashes be for us
a sign of
our mortality and penitence,
and a reminder
that only by your gracious gift
are we given abundant life,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.



Imposition of Ashes

At this time, you are invited to come forward in silence for the imposition of ashes. Please put your Lenten confessions in the basket on the table at the front as you come forward. The slips of paper will be burned to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday next year, just as the ashes used tonight are from the confessions and intentions written last year.

Leader: Thanks be to God. Amen.
People: Amen.

Prayer Continues

You are welcome to remain in the Sanctuary in silence or exit quietly.

We hope to see you again soon!

Tread Lightly for Lent 2022

DAILY REFLECTION / ACTION CALENDAR

The *Presbyterian Hunger Program* strives to walk with people in moving towards sustainable choices that restore and protect all of God's children and creation. As people of faith, we seek to "serve and preserve" God's world. However, some of our collective choices have led to a changing global climate. To turn this tide, we must commit to treading lightly on God's Earth.

In Lent, we reflect on Christ's ministry, death, and resurrection. We slow down, take time, and examine our internal spiritual lives and the way we live out our Christian faith in the world around us.

Our hope is that this Lenten calendar will be the beginning of actions intended to create more mindful behaviors throughout the year.

March 2 Ash Wednesday

Read Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21. Consider these questions: What do we see as treasure here on earth? How do or don't those treasures draw us closer to God?

March 3

Use the OGHS map online at www.presbyterianmission.org/oghsmap to find the OGHS partner closest to you and say a prayer for them.

March 4

Even though many of us aren't gathering in a traditional sense, there is still a place for sustainable palms in your virtual worship. Learn more and order online: www.pcusa.org/eco-palms

March 5

Challenge yourself to drink only water. It takes 600 cups of water to produce a single cup of coffee, and 125 cups of water to produce a cup of tea.

March 6

Download The Sustainable Development Study Guide from the Office at the UN at <https://bit.ly/3G7PvTC> to connect environmental and human health around the world

March 7

Read and Reflect on Genesis 2:15-17.

March 8

Write down everything you throw away today. Challenge yourself to reduce the trash you produce for the remaining days of Lent.

March 9

Read and Reflect on Psalm 130. Consider our responsibility to be part of God's redemption in creation.

Reflect
and
Act

