



ASH

WEDNESDAY

...to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house...(Isaiah 58 excerpts)

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

NOON

22 FEBRUARY 2023



East Liberty
Presbyterian Church

www.ELPC.church



116 South Highland Ave • Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Order Of Worship

Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023 • 12 Noon

* Indicates where to please rise in body or spirit.

PRELUDE

“Audi, benigne conditor”

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*
Gerald Near

*O Kind Creator, bow thine ear to mark the cry, to know the tear
Before thy throne of mercy spent in this thy holy fast of Lent.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

Leader: God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

People: God's love endures forever.

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

People: God's love endures forever.

* **HYMN** (*printed in bulletin*)

“Son of God, Whose Heart Is Peace”

TAMA NGAKAU MARIE

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*in unison*)

The Rev. Woodworth

Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who trust 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 the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

* **HYMN** (*printed in bulletin*)

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”

SARADAY

GOSPEL READING

John 8:1-11

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

HOMILY

“Being Human: What A Mess”

The Rev. Schoenewolf

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Beloved people of God: Lent is a time to prepare for a celebration of 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 penitence of this community.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by meditating on God's word. Now let us bow before God in a Litany of Penitence, confessing our sin as individuals and as a community of faith.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy
The Rev. Schoenewolf
The Rev. Woodworth

Leader: Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another 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 all our past unfaithfulness. For the pride, hypocrisy and impatience in our lives,

People: have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: 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,

People: have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: For our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

People: have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: 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: For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

People: have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: For false judgments, uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

People: have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: 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. Restore us, O God of our salvation, and show us your steadfast love. Turn to us in your mercy and redeem us. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

*** HYMN DURING THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES** (*printed in bulletin*)
“Sign Us with Ashes”

PHOENIX

*** PRAYER** (*unison*)

The Rev. Schoenewolf

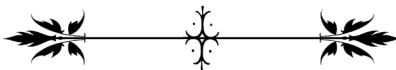
Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, for it is only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life. May we follow Christ’s example, obeying you with willing hearts and serving one another in holy love, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*** CLOSING HYMN** (*printed in bulletin*) “Take, O Take Me as I Am”

TAKE ME AS I AM

*** CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

The Rev. Schoenewolf



PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE

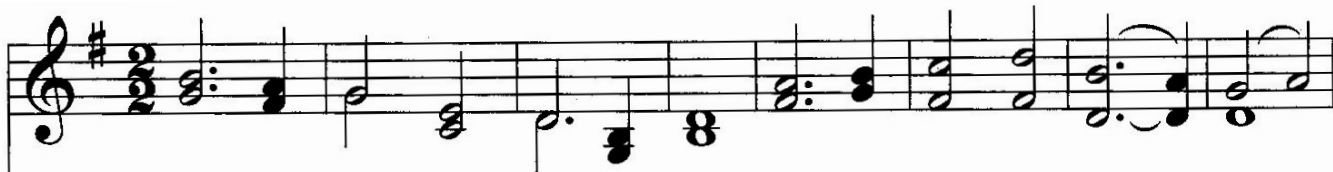
Preaching: **The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf**
Acting Co-Pastor and Pastor for Educational Ministries

Liturgists: **The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy**
Acting Co-Pastor and Pastor for Mission Ministries
The Rev. BJ Woodworth
*Covenant Pastor for Spiritual Life, Taizé,
and Transitional Ministries*

Musicians: **Dr. Edward Alan Moore**
Organist/Music Director
Adrianna Cleveland, Cantor
David Jennings-Smith, Cantor

Sound: **Wayne Gaines**

SON OF GOD, WHOSE HEART IS PEACE



1 Son of God, whose heart is peace, Son of God, most ho - ly,
2 Take a - way our sin - ful - ness, e - vil that im - pris - ons us;
3 Warm our hearts to love you, Lord, you who died to save us;



to your pres - ence we have come; give us now your love.
free us from what trou - bles us; give our souls re - lease.
gath - er us with - in your arms, Je - sus, on this day.



Even in translation this hymn from the indigenous peoples of New Zealand conveys a stark beauty in its confident address to Christ and its prayer for release from the captivity of sin. Their traditional melody further connects us with these people on the other side of the world.

TEXT: Maori hymn; para. Shirley Erena Murray, 1989

MUSIC: Maori melody

Text © 1990 Christian Conference of Asia (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

TAMA NGAKAU MARIE

7.6.7.5

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD

Capo 5: (F) (Gsus) (G) (C) (Em7) (F) (A7)
 B \flat Csus C F Am7 B \flat D7



1 Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God; cre -
 2 7 Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence; 7
 3 Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion; re -

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



ate in me a clean heart, O God; cre -
 cast me not a - way from your pres - ence; 7
 store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion; re -

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



ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 cast me not a - way from your pres - ence 7 and
 store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -

(Dm7) (Em) (G) (C) [(Em)]
 Gm7 Am C F [Am]



new a right spir - it with - in me.
 take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
 hold me with your free Spir - it.

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.

SIGN US WITH ASHES

Capo 3: (G) (D) (Em) (Bm) (Am7)
 Refrain B \flat F Gm Dm Cm7
All

Sign us with ash - es, mer - ci - ful God, chil - dren of

(G) (Am7) (D) (G) (D)
 B \flat Cm7 F B \flat F

dust, as to dust we re - turn. Sign us with ash - es,

(Em) (Bm) (Am7) (D7) (Gsus) (G)
 Gm Dm Cm7 F7 B \flat sus B \flat *Fine*

mer - ci - ful God. Mark us and make us your own.

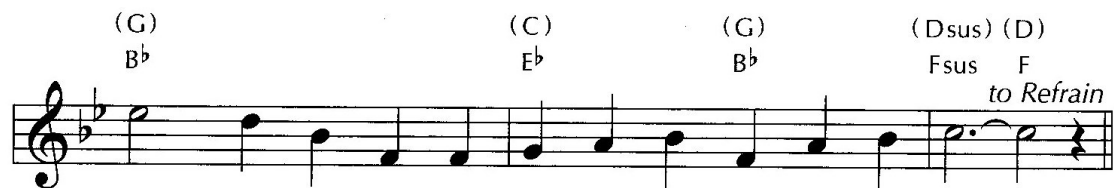
(D) (G) (C)
 F B \flat E \flat
Leader or All

1 Sure - ly, you a - lone can save us. You pay our
 2 Sure - ly, you a - lone up - hold us. You give us
 3 Sure - ly, you a - lone can heal us. Yours is the
 4 Sure - ly, you a - lone can free us. You break the
 5 Sure - ly, you a - lone re - fine us. You give us
 6 Sure - ly, you a - lone re - deem us. You fill our

(G) (D) (G) (D)
 B \flat F B \flat F

price with pre - cious blood. Reach - ing through your
 strength for all our needs. Shield - ing with a
 will to make us whole. Sooth - ing with a
 bonds of guilt and sin. Brac - ing, till we
 grace for lives made new, forg - ing, through your
 dust with ho - ly breath. Burst - ing from the

The refrain here recalls the imposition of ashes, a ritual based on Genesis 3:19, which has been a part of Christian worship on Ash Wednesday since the 9th century. As *The Book of Common Worship* states, "This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life."



great com - pas - sion, you lift up your peo - ple with love.
 fa - ther's fa - vor, you bless us with par - don and peace.
 moth - er's kind-ness, the con - trite of heart, you con - sole.
 walk up - right - ly, you bol - ster our hope once a - gain.
 fire and ra - diance, a sac - ri - fice wor - thy for you.
 grave in glo - ry, you rise from the ash - es of death!



TAKE, O TAKE ME AS I AM

The musical score is written for two voices, Soprano and Bass, in 4/4 time. The key signature has four flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat, D-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: 'Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.' The score is divided into two systems, each with a Soprano staff and a Bass staff.

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall
be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

The brevity of this text and tune invite repeated singing, either as a sustained chain of sound or as a sung response in a series of prayers. It offers a more reflective approach to the same theme of self-dedication evident in older hymns such as "Just as I Am" (see no. 442).

TEXT and MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1995

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TAKE ME AS I AM

7.7.7.4

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