

# ASH WEDNESDAY

# TAIZÉ:

## PRAYERFUL SONG & QUIET MEDITATION



**Wednesday, February 22, 2023 • 7:00 pm**



**East Liberty  
Presbyterian Church**

[www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church)

116 South Highland Ave  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
**412.441.3800**

# ASH WEDNESDAY

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.

# Welcome to Taizé

We hope this time and space of prayerful song and quiet meditation will give you rest in body, mind and spirit. We invite you to pray and meditate in a variety of ways as you are so inclined.

- Hold a prayer stone, palm cross or prayer beads.
- Allow the simple repeated refrains to be sung over you and join in as you are able.
- Come forward to the table to doodle or color a mandala.
- Sit on a prayer cushion or chair at the front to be closer to the icons and artwork.
- Light a candle in prayer for another.

May you awaken to the restful and restorative presence of the Spirit, and may you carry that awareness with you out into the world.



**Prelude by Kathy Whittaker**

**Welcome and Opening Centering by The Rev. BJ Woodworth**



## CLM17 Consoling Spirit Of God

Es - prit con - so - la - teur, a - mour de tout a -  
Con - sol - ing Spir - it of God, O love in all our

mour. love. Es - prit con - so - la - teur, a - mour de tout a - mour.  
Con - sol - ing Spir - it of God, O love in all our love.

(♩ Last time)

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## 25 When The Night Becomes Dark

Em Am<sup>6</sup> E Am E

When the night be - comes dark, your love, O Lord,

Am E C<sup>6</sup> Dm C F<sup>6</sup> E Am

is a fire; your love, O Lord, is a fire.

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**Psalm 51** (NRSV Bible translation)

**Sung Response: CLM38 All My Heart Lies Open To You**

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are in Latvian and English. The first line of music corresponds to the first line of lyrics, and the second line of music corresponds to the second line of lyrics. The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

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

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

(Last time)

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Have mercy on us, living Lord,  
Remember not our sin.  
According to Your steadfast love  
Come, cleanse us deep within.  
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.  
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.  
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 and Meditation: Joel 2:1-17 *(selected verses)*

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Truly the day of the Lord is great; terrible indeed—who can endure it? Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord, your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children.

## Quiet Meditation and Reflection *(lasting approximately 5-7 minutes)*

### Words from Saints and Ancestors

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.

— Brother Roger (1915-2005)

*a Swiss Christian leader and monastic brother and founder of the Taizé Community, an ecumenical monastic community in Burgundy, France, serving as its first prior until his murder in 2005. Towards the end of his life, the Taizé Community was attracting international attention, welcoming thousands of young pilgrims every week, which it has continued to do after his death.*



## 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.

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## 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;

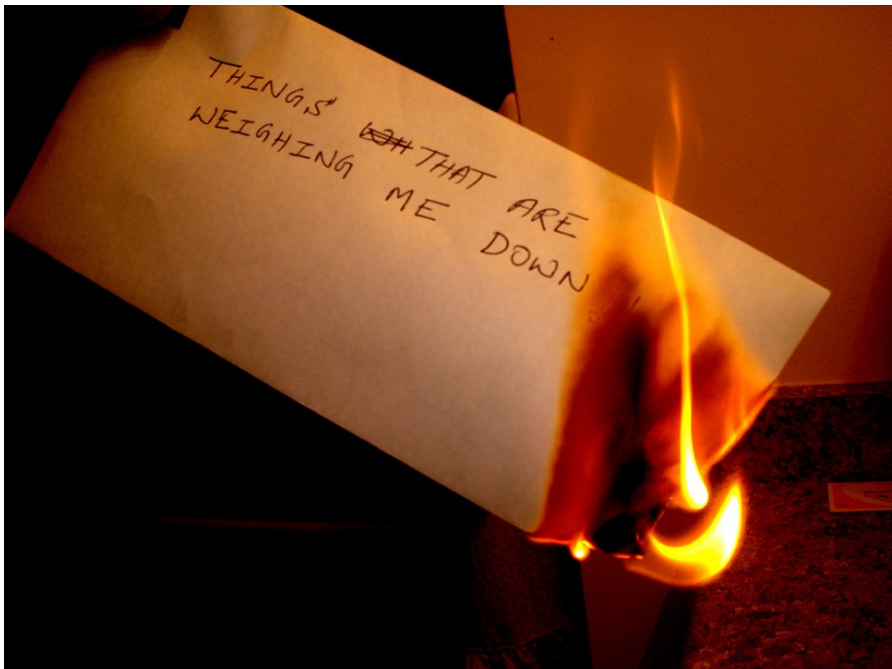
lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil. For thine is the King - dom,

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. To assist in hearing prayer concerns, anointing happens to the left in the columbarium.*

**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 pew racks.*

*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 urn 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.*

## 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

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

Freu - de, Freu - de in 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 staves: 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.

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## Prayer Over The Ashes

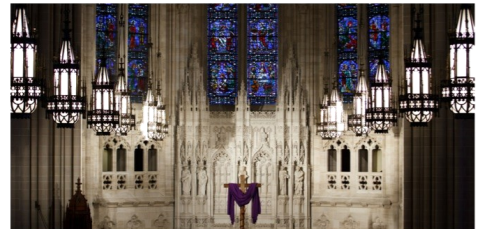
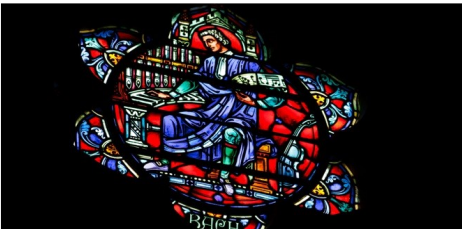
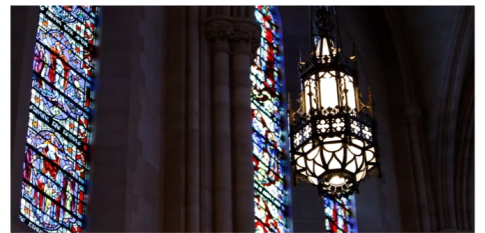
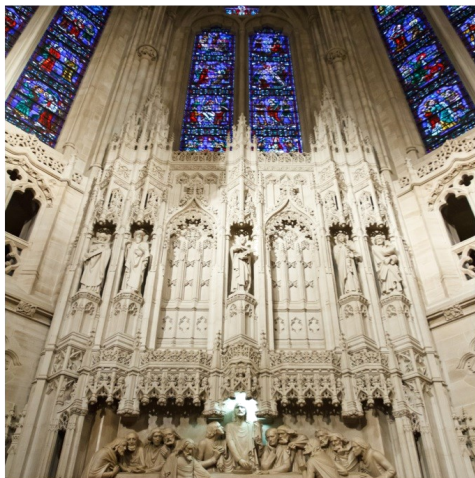
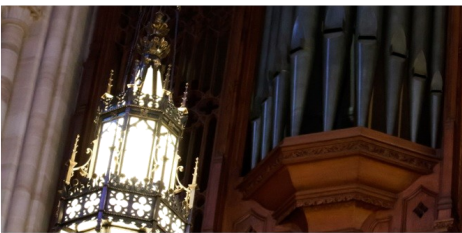
Almighty God,  
you have created us out of the dust of the earth.  
May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence,  
and a reminder that only by your gracious gift  
are we given abundant life,  
through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
Amen.

## 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 urn 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.*



We will depart in silence tonight to honor the beginning of Lent.



*Please visit our website for more  
information about the ministries of  
East Liberty Presbyterian Church.*

[www.ELPC.CHURCH](http://www.ELPC.CHURCH)



# SPIRITUAL LIFE EVENTS

## A Lenten Journey of Embracing the Wisdom of Our Ancestors, Bodies, and the Earth — Feb 23 to March 30

*Decolonizing* is a popular buzz word in conversations about spirituality, but what is it? What does it look like? Join other congregants on a Lenten journey focused on understanding the impact of colonization on our spiritual practice.



Together, let's consider ways to deepen our connection to God by learning to embrace the wisdom of our ancestors, our bodies, and the Earth itself.

Each Thursday during Lent (Feb 23– March 30) from 5:30–7 pm, the Rev. Leeann Shaw Younger will lead us as we explore a particular theme and discuss ways to implement new ideas or strengthen our spiritual practice throughout the week.

We cannot change the past, but we can rediscover what we lost and build a fuller, richer sense of the Divine in our midst.

A light dinner will be served. The suggested donation is \$25. **Please see The Rev. BJ Woodworth immediately after today's service if you would like to attend tomorrow!**

### Contemplative Prayer on Mondays

On Mondays from 7:30–8 am, you're invited to a weekly time of quiet contemplation and reflection. The Rev. BJ Woodworth will lead us through a variety of contemplative prayer practices utilizing fixed prayers, scripture, music, silence, art, and our bodies to help us start our day and week in communion with God and one another.

Join us online at [www.tiny.cc/contemplative-prayer](http://www.tiny.cc/contemplative-prayer). Enter meeting ID: 959 8065 3992 and passcode: bestill when prompted. Contact Pastor BJ (BJW@coh.net) for more info.

## The Rev. BJ Woodworth is Minister of Taizé Prayer here at ELPC.

BJ is also Director of Spiritual Life Ministries and is available to provide spiritual direction to anyone who is a part of the ELPC community (attending Taizé makes YOU a part of that community).

# ELPC EVENTS

## Guest Preacher: The Rev. Leeann Shaw Younger — Feb 26

On Sunday, Feb 26, we're pleased to welcome The Rev. Leeann Shaw Younger as our guest preacher for our Journey and Sanctuary services. Rev. Younger is the lead pastor of Cityview Church in Pittsburgh's East Deutschtown/Spring Garden neighborhood. She co-founded the Evangelical Covenant Church congregation in 2010 with her husband, Wayne. Leeann has a breadth of vocational experiences in her background as a nonprofit executive leader, faith leader, and community leader for justice for marginalized neighbors.

### Registration is Now Open for VCS

ELPC's 2023 Vacation Church School program will take place June 26–30 from 9 am–3 pm for children in pre-K (age 4 and potty-trained) through grade 5 (completed). Our theme this summer is *Changemakers Lab*, a place children will learn that everyone can make a difference in the world!

You can register your child, or sign up to volunteer, at <http://tiny.cc/elpc-vcs>.

## Congregational Meeting — Feb 26

The past year has been one in which we have experienced many transitions, and we are still rebounding from the global pandemic, as are many worshipping communities. And, by God's grace, we are fortunate to have navigated the pandemic, an economic downturn, and transitions in pastoral leadership with strength, patience, and fortitude.

On Sunday, Feb 26 at 12:45 pm, we will convene for our annual Congregational Meeting. This is a time to reflect on the past year, receive reports and budget information, and elect officers to serve on our governing councils. It also is a time to consider the ways in which God is at work in our congregation's programmatic, educational, mission-oriented, and worship lives.

Arrangements are being made for a hybrid event. You are invited to attend the meeting in the Social Hall or on Zoom. If you choose the Zoom option, you must be on camera to vote.

## YAM Event: Create and Sip — Feb 26

Join the Young Adult Ministry on Sunday, Feb 26 at 3 pm at the August Wilson Cultural Center for *Create & Sip*, the third event of Beyond the Red Door: a theatrical event series. Grab refreshments and dive into an evening of arts workshops rooted in August Wilson's creative process. Snacks and drinks will be available at 2:30 pm. The cost is \$20 and tickets are required. Contact Derail Holcomb for more info (DerailH@coh.net).