

**WELCOME TO THE ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AT
EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, the 40-day period of fasting and penitence before Easter. On Ash Wednesday, we receive the sign of the cross on our foreheads reminding us of our mortality and humanity as we begin the Lenten Fast. The ashes are a Biblical symbol of repentance, sorrow, and humility. There are many cases in the Scriptures of wearing ashes as a sign of penitence, often while wearing sackcloth.

As we receive the ashes this evening, remember that “from dust we were created and to dust we shall return.” (Genesis 3:19). As we have been baptized in Jesus Christ, we participate in both his death and his resurrection. While we acknowledge in humility our mortality and our need for God’s forgiveness and grace in our lives, we hold fast to the truth that death does not have the last word as Jesus journeys to Jerusalem.

Unison Reading: Isaiah 58:6-8

6Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? 7Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

8Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

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MINISTERS—ALL OF US!

STAFF

Dr. Bradley D. Smith, Pastor

Dr. Douglass D. Key, Senior Associate Pastor

Rev. Lynn A. Grandsire, Associate Pastor

Rev. Brian Marsh, Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Carol J. Byrd, Parish Associate

Fredna Lee, Director of Music Ministry

Josh Evanovich, Organist

Croskeys Royall, Director of Children’s Ministries

Caroline Bennett, Small Groups and Librarian

Laura Long, Senior High Youth Director (PT)

Hannah Winstead, Middle School Youth Director

Susie Glenn, Member Involvement Coordinator

Emmet Hough, Christian Life Center Director

Bill Collins, Business Manager

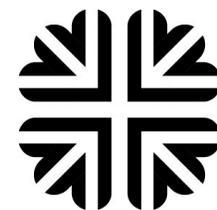
Jenny Smith, Eastminster Day School Director

Blythe Lewis, Director of Communications

Christy Rippy, Treasurer

Dave Davis, Facilities Manager

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020



**E A S T M I N S T E R
P R E S B Y T E R I A N**

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PLEASE ENTER THE SANCTUARY SILENTLY

In Christ's name we welcome you to our Ash Wednesday service. Ash Wednesday allows us the opportunity to meditate on our mortality, sinfulness and need of a Savior, to renew our commitment to daily repentance, and to remember with confidence and gratitude that Christ has conquered death and sin. Therefore, we ask that you enter the Sanctuary in silence to prepare your heart and mind for worship. We remind you to please take a moment to turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices out of respect for those worshipping around you.

*“God is in His Holy temple,
let all the earth keep silence before Him.”*

PRELUDE

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Brian J. Marsh

Leader: The Lord says, “Turn to me now, while there is time. Give me your hearts.”

People: “Come to the Lord with fasting, weeping, and mourning.”

Leader: “Don't tear your clothing in your grief, but tear your hearts instead.”

People: Return to the Lord your God, for He is merciful and compassionate.

All: Our God is slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.

†*HYMN OF PRAISE #415

Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

RESTORATION

*PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

Hear My Cry, O God

Alexander Kopyloff, Russian composer and violinist (1854-1911)

Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my pray'r: Hold not Thy peace at my tears. Unto Thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul; O my God, I trust in Thee; O keep my soul, and deliver me. Praise the Lord, O my soul: and all within me praise His holy Name. Be Thou exalted above the heavens, and Thy glory above the earth. Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my pray'r.

Psalm 61

SCRIPTURE READING

Unison Reading: Isaiah 58:6-8

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Scripture Focus: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Pages 5 & 6

Pastor: The Word of the Lord!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

MEDITATION

“When...Not If”

Rev. Brian J. Marsh

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

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. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Hear us now as we lift our sins to you in the silence of our hearts...

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE TO THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON #442

Just As I Am

WOODWORTH

IMPOSITION OF ASHES:

The congregation comes forward to receive the sign of the cross with ashes. From ashes we have come — to ashes we shall return.

CHORAL MEDITATION

Written in the Ash

Dean Ponder

What matter is that is consumed when brightly burns the flame Is not consumed in total with nothing left to claim. But leaves behind a story of what came before the flash. What matter was before the flame is written in the ash. The ash then tells the story as distinctly as it could. For ash from coal is different ash than that which comes from wood. And ash tells not just what it was but that it ceased to be A fitting symbol of the flesh surrounding you and me. The ash will mark the sign and tell the story of the flame And signify from spark to dying ember just the same. And speak to us of all that we can gain because of loss. And start us on a journey that will lead us to the cross. The story told a mournful tale that we see as the end. But ash on mournful flesh speaks a spirit on the mend. Just so the ash of year old palms will tell this story clear The penitence of all who wear the ash at Lent this year. Amen.

PRAYER (*Unison*)

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. Create in me

a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of

your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth

will declare your praise. We pray this in the name of Jesus, our redeemer, sustainer, and

living hope. Amen

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #166

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

ST. FLAVIAN

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

Please depart in Silence