

## 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 service in silence to prepare your heart and mind for worship. If you are in the Sanctuary, 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

Lucinda Shields, organist

## RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lynn A. Grandsire

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 #620

*Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven*

LAUDA ANIMA

1. **Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet your tribute bring; ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.**
2. **Praise him for his grace and favor to his people in distress; praise him still the same as ever, slow to chide and swift to bless: Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in his faithfulness.**
3. **Father-like, he tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows; in his hands he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes. Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet his mercy flows.**

## \*PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Brian J. Marsh

**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.**

## SCRIPTURE READING

**Scripture Focus: Isaiah 58:1-12**

Pastor: The Word of the Lord!

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

## MEDITATION

Rev. Lynn A. Grandsire

“Repaired and Restored?”

## **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!**

## **DISTRIBUTION OF SACKCLOTH:**

The pastors will come to you with a piece of sackcloth to remind you of your humility before the Lord.

## **MUSICAL MEDITATION**

*Gracious Spirit, Hear Our Pleading*

NJOOKWETU, ROHO MWEMA

Gracious spirit, heed our pleading; fashion us all anew. It's your leading that we're needing; help us to follow you. Come, come, come Holy Spirit, come.

Come to teach us; come to nourish those who believe in Christ. Bless the faithful; may they nourish, strengthened by grace unpriced. Come, come, come Holy Spirit, come.

Guide our thinking and our speaking done in your holy name. Motivate all in their seeking; freeing from guilt and shame. Come, come, come Holy Spirit, come.

Not mere knowledge, but discernment, nor rootless liberty; turn disquiet to contentment, doubt into certainty. Come, come, come Holy Spirit, come

Keep us fervent in our witness, unswayed by earth's allure. Ever grant us zealous fitness, which you alone assure. Come, come, come Holy Spirit, come.

## **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**

*Give Me Jesus*

GIVE ME JESUS

In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus. You can have all this world, give me Jesus. And when I feel afraid, give me Jesus. You can have all this world, give me Jesus. And when the trumpet sounds, give me Jesus. You can have all this world, give me Jesus.

## **\*CHARGE**

## **\*BENEDICTION**

*Please depart in Silence*

**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 usually 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. This year we will receive sackcloth to remind us to mourn for our sins, and to submit ourselves in humility to God's grace in our lives.

As we receive the sackcloth 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.