

Ash Wednesday

March 5th, 2014

6:30 p.m.

Please observe a time of silent reflection as we prepare to worship the Lord.

PRELUDE

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

INTROIT

We Bring Our Hearts

+CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

One: Lent calls us to a journey of anticipation. During Lent we anticipate that final trip to Jerusalem.

All: Lent calls us to a journey from life to death and back to life.

One: Lent calls us not just to give up something, but to take something upon ourselves – participation in the mystery of God.

All: Lent calls us to penitence, accountability, and preparation – both corporately and individually.

One: Lent calls us to remember our baptismal calling to be a sign to the world of the Kingdom of God.

All: Lent calls us to face the darkness without holding a flashlight.

+OPENING PRAYER

+HYMN

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

#81

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

p. 5 NT

Silent Meditation

EPISTLE LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

p. 160 NT

Silent Meditation

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

p. 800 OT

Silent Meditation

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Tim Reynolds

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

Preparatory Hymn *Forty Days and Forty Nights*

#77

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious Lord, in the stillness of this time and place let us think not on what we have done, but on what we have failed to do or left undone.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for the times...

When we saw a life falling apart and failed to pray;

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

When we witnessed people being childish, throwing tantrums or having a meltdown, and we failed to take the time to offer a word of calming reassurance;

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

When we didn't heed a warning of caution and plunged ahead willfully, causing detriment to others;

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

When we failed to heed the advice of a doctor or pastor or parent or friend and suffered a setback that could have been avoided;

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

When we acted irresponsibly and others paid for our arrogance;

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

When we saw a brother or sister in need and failed to offer help because we were too busy or too worried or too scared;

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

When we chose not to go to church or to pray or to study our Bibles because there was something else we wanted to do more;

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

When we didn't say we were sorry to someone we hurt because we were too stubborn to swallow our pride;

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Forgive us, loving God, for our failures of the past and awaken us so we might heed the challenges of the future. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Thanksgiving Over the Ashes

Imposition of Ashes

Lamb of God

Larson

The Lord's Prayer (Hymnbook, p. 16)

Assurance of God's Love

+Passing of the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

+HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This

#85

+BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

Part in Peace

+POSTLUDE

+THOSE WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND

THIS EVENING...

- the liturgist is Fred Holt
- the nursery volunteer is Jamie Hortenstine
- the sound board tech is Rick Ratliff

MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

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!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains
a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them
in ages to come.

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 he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.

Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain-offering and a drink-offering
for the Lord, your God?

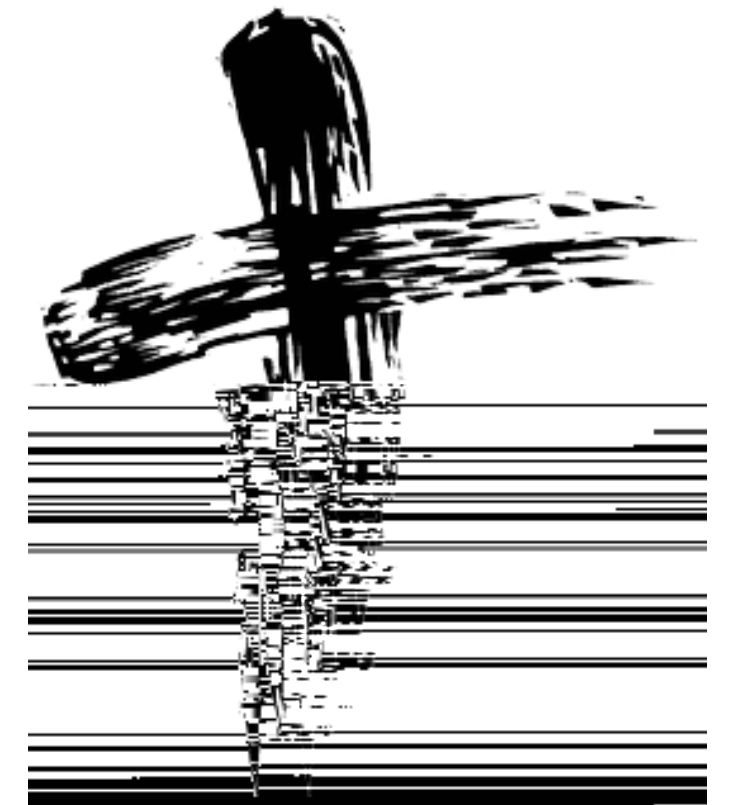
Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly; gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged; gather the children,
even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.
Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.
Let them say, 'Spare your people, O Lord,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'

Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church
Organized 1772

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)



Ash Wednesday



SINKING SPRING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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