



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ASH WEDNESDAY  
Sacrament of Holy Communion  
22 February 2023 + 6:30 p.m.

Welcome

Voluntary Evening Song to God Franz Joseph Haydn

\*Call to Worship Caroline Bryans

Leader: We come to worship God as the Lenten season begins, aware of our frailty and our failings.

People: **We come seeking God's mercy, acknowledging our mortality.**

Leader: Having received the waters of baptism, we are marked now with ashes.

People: **Let us walk this way with integrity and hope knowing that we belong to God.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the One to whom we belong.

\*Hymn 822 When We are Living *Somos del Señor*

\*Litany of Confession Connor Hill and Lily Hill

Leader: Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.  
We have many treasures on earth that we hold dearly.

People: **When we sin against neighbor, condone injustice, and quarrel with one another.**

Leader: We sin against you.

People: **Forgive us, we pray, for we are broken in spirit. Do not see us for our faults, and do not go away from us.**

Leader: Keep us always in your presence.  
So that we may be restored to the joy of your salvation.

People: **Sustain us in a willing spirit to treasure what you desire; Then our hearts will be opened in joy and gladness.**

Leader: Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

<b>*Sung Response</b>	Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us	Hymnal, Back Cover
<b>*Declaration of Pardon</b>	Leader: Friends, believe the good news. People: <b>In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.</b>	
<b>*Passing of the Peace</b>	Leader: The peace of Christ be with you. People: <b>And also with you.</b> Leader: Let us greet one another with the sign of peace.	
<b>*Response of Praise</b>	Gloria Patri	Hymnal, Back Cover
<b>Anthem</b>	Merciful God, Sign Us With Ashes Sign us with ashes, merciful God, children of dust, as to dust we return. Sign us with ashes, merciful God. Mark us and make us your own.	Tony Alonso
<b>First Scripture Reading</b>	Psalm 119:25-32 Leader: My soul clings to the dust; revive me according to your word. People: <b>When I told of my ways, you answered me; teach me your statutes.</b> Leader: Make me understand the way of your precepts, and I will meditate on your wondrous works. People: <b>My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to your word.</b> Leader: Put false ways far from me; and graciously teach me your law. People: <b>I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I set your ordinances before me.</b> Leader: I cling to your decrees, O Lord; let me not be put to shame. People: <b>I run the way of your commandments, for you enlarge my understanding.</b>	Lily Swanson
<b>Second Scripture Reading</b>	Matthew 6:16-21	
<b>Meditation</b>	The Empty Pot	Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

## Musical Reflection

### Create in Me a Clean Heart

John Carter

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free Spirit. Psalm 51

## Meaning of Holy Communion

Harper Huston

**Leader:** We come to the gracious table of the Lord spread before us as a gift of grace, and a visible sign of the love we are offered in Christ. As we receive the bread and the cup, we remember Jesus offered his body and blood when he died on the cross. Jesus brings healing & wholeness to our lives.

**People:** **Lord, we remember your gift of healing and wholeness as we share in the bread of life and cup of salvation.**

## Meaning of the Ashes

Reese Huston

**Leader:** We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. The ashes come from the branches of last year's palms. This sign reminds us of our humanity, the uncertainty of our days, the certainty of our loving Creator and the need for healing and wholeness.

**People:** **Lord, we remember we are created by you and belong to you in life and in death.**

## Meaning of Clay Pots

Lucy Bassett

**Leader:** As we journey through Lent, may the gift of this small clay pot remind us of the ground from which we were formed by a loving and creative God. May we embrace our mortality and walk with humility, integrity, and hope all the days of our lives.

**People:** **Lord, we remember your best hope for each of us is that we will walk with humility, integrity, and hope.**

## Invitation to the Lord's Table

## Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Leader:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Leader:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them up to the Lord.**

**Leader:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## Words of Institution

### The Imposition of the Ashes and Communion of the People

*Worshippers are invited to come forward for the Imposition of Ashes and to receive Communion. Take a piece of bread and dip it into the cup. Receive a clay pot as a reminder of our humanity.*

### \*Prayer after Communion

**Holy and Loving God, who joined us in our humanity in Jesus Christ, we are grateful for the nourishment we receive at your table to strengthen us for our journey into Lent. As we depart, may the sign of the ashes remind us of our humanity and the clay pot of the ground from which you formed us. May we give our best, accept the emptiness life sometimes offers, and walk with integrity all the days of our lives. Amen.**

### \*Hymn 547

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

*Ar Hyd y Nos*

### \*Blessing and Charge

### \*Voluntary

Adagio

Franz Liszt

*(\*) The congregation is invited to stand.*

### **PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE:**

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer, Rev. Christian K. Choi, Dale T. Rogers, Katie Moore, Bridges children,

### **CHILDREN'S CHOIR:**

Sadie and Junie Berkowitz, Diana Choi, Luke McNutt, Charlotte Moore, Eva Volle

### **CHORISTERS:**

Lucy Bassett, Caroline Bryans, Lily Hill, Harper and Reese Huston, Lily Swanson

### **ELDERS SERVING COMMUNION:**

Mary Ray, Mal Hildebrand, Gregg Humphrey, Amanda Kurmann, Dave Leonatti, Christy Pound.

**THE COMMUNION BREAD** is oatmeal wheat and was lovingly prepared by Susan Day.

### **DEACON USHERS:**

Sabrina Holmes, Richard Leary, Camille Massey, and Jim Rigney

We give special thanks to: Karen Sherrick, Director for Children's Ministry for leading Midweek Bridges and Katie Moore, Director for Children's Music, for leading our choirs.