



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ASH WEDNESDAY  
Sacrament of Holy Communion  
2 March 2022 + 6:30 p.m.

Welcome

Introit

O Lamb of God

Twila Paris

The text for the anthem is 518 in the hymnal

\*Call to Worship

Cara Bryans

Leader:

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

People:

**God does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our mistakes.**

Leader:

As the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is God's love; as far as the east is from the  
west, God removes our sins that far from us.

People

**For God knows us and remembers that we are dust.  
Our hope is in the Lord.**

Leader:

Come, let us worship God.

\*Hymn 315

In the Midst of New Dimensions

*New Dimensions*

\*Prayer of Confession

Lord God, giver of our every breath, as we begin our Lenten journey, send your Holy Spirit to blow the dust off whatever in or around us needs new life. Remind us of our limits so that we will once again experience your limitless power. May the ashes on our foreheads prompt us to live our lives in the shape of the cross so that even when the ashes have been washed away, others will see in us the face of Christ. Amen. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

**\*Sung Response** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us Hymnal, Back Cover

**\*Declaration of Pardon**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.  
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**  
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you,  
People: **and also with you.**  
All: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**First Scripture Reading** Psalm 119:25-32 Lily Swanson

Leader: My soul clings to the dust;  
revive me according to your word.  
People: **When I told of my ways, you answered me;  
teach me your statutes.**  
Leader: Make me understand the way of your precepts,  
and I will meditate on your wondrous works.  
People: **My soul melts away for sorrow;  
strengthen me according to your word.**  
Leader: Put false ways far from me;  
and graciously teach me your law.  
People: **I have chosen the way of faithfulness;  
I set your ordinances before me.**  
Leader: I cling to your decrees, O Lord;  
let me not be put to shame.  
People: **I run the way of your commandments,  
for you enlarge my understanding.**

**Second Scripture Reading** 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

**Meditation** Dust Yourself Off Rev. Christian Choi

**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 and 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 that we are created by you and belong to you in life and in death.**

## Meaning of Ceramic Dishes

Lucy Bassett

- Leader: As we journey through Lent, the Season of Ashes, may the gift of this ceramic dish remind us of the potential in our ordinary lives because of the cross of Christ. May we continue to dust ourselves off and pick ourselves up when we fall short of living our best selves.
- People: **Lord, we remember the potential of our ordinary lives because of the cross of Christ.**

## 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

**Distribution of Elements**    *The elements are served without interruption. Partake of the bread as you receive it and hold the cup until all have been served so that we may symbolize our unity in Christ.*

**Music at Communion**    The Power of the Cross                      Keith Getty & Stuart Townen

**\*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 ceramic dish of the beauty in the ordinary which you embraced when you joined us in our humanity to conquer death by dying on a cross. Amen.

**\*Hymn 676**    Day is Done    *Ar Hyd y Nos*

**\*Blessing and Charge**

**\*Voluntary**    Prelude in b-flat-minor                              Johann Sebastian Bach

**The Imposition of the Ashes**    *Worshipers will receive Ashes as they depart the Sanctuary. They will also be presented a simple ceramic dish with an engraved cross.*

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

## **Participants in the Service**

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer, The Reverend Christian K. Choi

Bridges Children: Lucy Bassett, Cara Bryans, Harper and Reese Huston, Lily Swanson

Dale Thomas Rogers, Julie Blythe, Amanda Neubauer, Eleanor VanDeventer

Elders Serving Communion: Mary Ray (Captain), Emily Brower, Jay Kennerly, Dr. Peter Kieffer, Bryce Pound, Christy Pound, Carolyn Swanson, Sarah Zerfas

Deacon Ushers: George Botanga, Bob Stuart, Mike Sundquist