

***ASH WEDNESDAY
JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE
WITH
GINTER PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
AND
FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
6:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023***

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP
February 22, 2023
Joint Worship Service with
Ginter Park and First United Presbyterian Churches
6:00 p.m.

PRELUDE

Elder Gregory McCallum
Mrs. Carol Ormond

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Carla Pratt Keyes

Genesis 2:7; 3: 19 Psalm 104: 29-30; John 1: 18

One: Friends, we have gathered to observe Ash Wednesday together.

All: We remember that God made us from fragile, blessed dust and God breathes through us the breath of life and love.

One: From dust we are created in God's image and to God's good dust we shall return.

All: With dust we will claim the mark of God's beloved creature.

One: Today we begin our 40-day Lenten journey to discover who we are created to be as God's beloved.

All: In daily practices of prayer and service, we will make this journey.

One: We follow Jesus, God's Beloved Child, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh

in whom we see God's image most clearly.

All: Come, let us pray for strength and imagination to follow Jesus wherever he will lead us this Lent.

OPENING HYMN: "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

PH #80

OPENING PRAYER:

Rev. Newbern-Williams

Almighty and Eternal God, you despise nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who trust in you. Create in us new and humble hearts that truly repenting of our sins, and acknowledging our brokenness, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

Rev. Keyes

Loving and Merciful God, your word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our paths. Allow these scriptures to penetrate our hearts and souls so that we receive your grace and declare your praise forever; through Jesus Christ we pray. **AMEN.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT:

Psalm 51:1-17

One: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**All: Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

One: For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

**All: Against you only have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

One: Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

**All: Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

One: Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**All: Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

One: Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my wickedness.

**All: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

One: Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**All: Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

One: Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

**All: Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

One: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise.

**All: For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;**

a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

GOSPEL READING:

Matthew 6:1-6;16-21

MEDITATION:

Rev. Newbern-Williams

HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Keyes and Rev. Newbern-Williams

Rev. Keyes: Gracious God, you are with us at this table, our Loving Host. We give you thanks and praise, and we gather together as you did with the disciples at your last supper with them. Lead us in the power of your Spirit to live as you require, to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with you. Give us faith to follow you and live to your Glory. AMEN.

Breaking of the Bread

Rev. Keyes: Jesus took bread. He blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his disciples. "This is my body which is given for you. As you eat, do this remembering me."

Pouring of the Cup

Rev. Newbern-Williams: After supper, Jesus took the cup. When he had given thanks, he said: "this cup is poured out for the remission of sins. All of you, drink it. I will not drink with you again until I do so in the Kingdom."

(All will eat the bread and drink the wine together.)

Rev. Newbern-Williams: Loving God, your presence at this meal is assured and has blessed us. We thank you for your love and your mercy. As you have fed us, now let us go forth to love and to serve others in your precious Name. **AMEN.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Rev. Newbern-Williams and Rev. Keyes

**You will be asked to come forward, as Rev. Carla and Rev. Mary place the ashes in the shape of the cross on your forehead. If you do not wish to have the ashes placed on your forehead, you may remain prayerfully in your seat. Rev. Carla will stand on one side of the sanctuary, and Rev. Mary on the other. Please step forward to the pastor on the side of the sanctuary where you are seated.

CLOSING HYMN: "In The Cross of Christ I Glory"

PH #84

BENEDICTION

Rev. Newbern-Williams

PARTICIPANTS AND LEADERS IN THE ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Ginter Park Presbyterian Church Congregation
First United Presbyterian Church Congregation

The Rev. Carla Pratt Keyes, Pastor
The Rev. Mary Newbern-Williams, Covenant Pastor

Elder Gregory McCallum, Musician and Choir Director
Mrs. Carol Ormond, Organist

Worship Committee of First United Presbyterian Church—Planning Committee

The Session of First United Presbyterian

The Deacons of First United Presbyterian

Mr. Louis Washington, Security

Thank you to everyone who took part in the planning, implementation,
preparation, attendance, and every part of the Ash Wednesday Service.
God bless you all.