



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

Ash Wednesday

March 2, 2022

7:30 PM

PRELUDE

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 130

ONE: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

MANY: Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to my prayers!

ONE: If you, O Lord, kept a strict record of our sins, Lord, who could ever survive?

MANY: But with you there is forgiveness, so that we might stand in awe of you.

ONE: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in God's word I hope.

MANY: My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

HYMN

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

HEAR MY PRAYER

The Congregation will sing the first verse 3x's.

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.

When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.

Come and listen to me.

RESPONSIVE LITANY OF CONFESSION

ONE: Almighty God, you alone are good and holy. Purify our lives and make us brave disciples. We do not ask you to keep us safe, but to keep us loyal, so that we may serve Jesus Christ, who, tempted in every way as we are, was faithful to you.

MANY: Amen.

ONE: From a lack of reverence for truth and beauty; from going along with mean and ugly things;

MANY: O God, deliver us.

ONE: From cowardice that dares not face truth; laziness content with half-truth; or arrogance that thinks we know it all;

MANY: O God, deliver us.

ONE: From shallow life and artificial worship; from all that is hollow or insincere;

MANY: O God, deliver us.

ONE: From trite ideals and cheap pleasures; from mistaking vulgarity for humor;

MANY: O God, deliver us.

ONE: From being dull, pompous, or rude; from putting down our neighbors;

MANY: O God, deliver us.

ONE: From cynicism about others; from disrespect or cruel indifference;

MANY: O God, deliver us.

ONE: From being satisfied with things as they are, in the church or in the world; from failing to share your indignation about injustice;

MANY: O God, deliver us.

ONE: From selfishness, self-indulgence, or self-pity;

MANY: O God, deliver us.

ONE: From token concern for the poor, the lonely, and the unloved; from confusing faith with good feeling, or love with wanting to be loved;

MANY: O God, deliver us.

ONE: For everything in us that may hide your light;

MANY: O God of light, forgive us.

RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

ONE: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sin, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sin and purify us from all unrighteousness. Hear and believe the Good News:

MANY: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

ASH WEDNESDAY MESSAGE

We All Fall Down

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

SUNG RESPONSE

My Song Is Love Unknown

LOVE UNKNOWN

Verse 1 Solo, Verses 2-5 the Congregation will please join in.

**My song is love unknown,
My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be.
O who am I,
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh, and die?**

**He came from heaven's throne
Salvation to bestow;
The world that was his own
Would not its Savior know.
But O, my Friend,
My Friend indeed,
Who at my need
His life did spend!**

**Sometimes we strew his way,
And his sweet praises sing,
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to our King.
Then “Crucify!”
Is all our breath,
And for his death
We thirst and cry.**

**Unheeding, we will have
Our dear Lord made away.
A murderer to save,
The prince of life to slay.
Yet steadfast he
To suffering goes,
That he his foes
From thence might free.**

**Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine:
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like thine.
This is my Friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend.**

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES:

You are invited to come forward at this time to receive the imposition of ashes. We will mark either your forehead or, if you prefer, your hand with the sign of the cross as a tangible reminder of our sinfulness and mortality and of our utter dependence upon the grace of God and the power of Christ's resurrection.

As you receive your ashes, the pastor will say:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you will return.

*You may respond: **Lord, have mercy.***

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER:

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.

HYMN

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

WALK WITH ME

**I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
All along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

**In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
When my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

**When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
When my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

ONE: God with whom we walk this Lenten path,

MANY: Bless us this day as we begin the long journey to the cross. Come to this place and remember your covenant with us. Remember the promise you made with us mere mortals to remain with us despite our dust. Shower your Spirit upon us for we need direction on this long road ahead. Care for us, your children, as we weather this winding road, following the faithful path of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Congregation may exit in silence following the Benediction.

WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Prayer of Confession** is taken from “Liturgical Year: The Worship of God,” published by Westminster/John Knox Press.

The **Reflection on Ash** is written by John van de Laar. Copyright © John van de Laar. Posted on the Sacredise website. <http://sacredise.com>

The **Benediction** is a prayer written by Stephen Fearing and posted on Wild and Precious Life. <http://www.stephenmfearing.com>

Hymns are from the Glory to God Hymnal, The Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, Louisville, KY, 2017. All are licensed for use by CCLI.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license # A-739749.

Thank you for worshipping with.



**Please visit us at
www.northamptonpresby.com**