



March 5, 2025

Ash Wednesday

GATHERING IN THE LORD'S PRESENCE

Boldface = All speak

❖ = All who are able, please stand.

PRELUDE..... "Wayfarin' Stranger" *Spiritual, Arr. by Calvin Taylor*

❖CALL TO WORSHIP

*In the beginning before time, before people, before the world began,
God was.*

*Here and now among us, beside us, enlisting the people of earth for the
purposes of heaven,
God is.*

*In the future, when we have turned to dust and all we know has found
its fulfillment,
God will be.*

*Not denying the world, but delighting in it, not condemning the world,
but redeeming it, through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit,
God was. God is. God will be.*

❖HYMN "Be Still and Know That I Am God" 3x thru **#414**

*(CCLI Song #4524625. John L. Bell © 1989, 2013 WGRG, c/o Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland
(Admin. by Wild Goose Resource Group)*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Gracious God, we pause for a moment, to pay attention to the
gift of breath, which is as ancient as we are old, as new as this
morning's dawn. (Pause) By your Spirit, your Word is made new.
In the hearing of Scripture, ancient and new, may we be
inclined to speak the truth in loving kindness, obey the law of
your love, and to keep your peace that passes all
understanding. Amen.**

1st SCRIPTURE Genesis 2:7 and 3:19, p. 3 & 5
Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. Thanks be to God.

2nd SCRIPTURE Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21, p. 1380
Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. Thanks be to God.

❖**HYMN** “Sign Us with Ashes” verses 1,3,5,6 **#433**
The choir will sing the verses, and the congregation is invited to sing the refrain.

(One License song #87615. Words and Music: Mary Louise Bringle, William P. Rowan © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.)

MESSAGEThe Rev. Sara K. Snowden

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF A HOLY LENT

Beloved people of God... ..Before Christ, let us confess our sin:
Holy God, you are one who guards and guides our way. Have mercy upon us. To follow you is to trust you in paradox; that from a broken, aching heart, rises a healing and hopeful heart; that out of weakness and vulnerability, grows the quickening of Christ’s Love; that in darkness and despair, the radiance of Christ’s Light shines. Holy God, we fail to follow you; we turn away. Forgive us, we pray. As certain as the morning sun that rises, you are here, Lord. Amen.

HYMN “Let Us Break Bread Together” **#525**
(CCLI Song #3205952. William Farley Smith © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Eternal God, you are there. You whisper hope, you softly call to us, as you have through all time, saying “Come home.” In you is our home. In stable and temple, river and hillside, cross and tomb, action and mystery both reveal your true presence.

You are there, even beyond the grave. You are there in shining glory, overcoming death and welcoming us to life.

You meet us in the breaking of bread, you pour out the wine of salvation.

You feed us with grace, overwhelm us with love, and welcome us home. You are the brilliance of light, the abundance of love.

By your Spirit, make these gifts your body and your blood, make us salt and light and teach us to repent, resist injustice, and to whisper your hope that swells to shouts of praise.

By your Spirit, make us one with you and each other.

By your Spirit, make us strong that we might share your love with your blessed and broken world, ancient and new.

You, Lord, are here.

And hear us now as we pray the prayer your son taught us, praying:
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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

SHARING THE MEAL AND RECEIVING ASHES

Worshippers are invited to come forward to receive ashes on their forehead. Please hold out your hand if you prefer to receive ashes on the back of your hand. Those who wish to partake of communion within the sanctuary are invited to come forward to receive a piece of gluten-free bread and a cup of grape juice.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Giving God, living Lord, you have fed us with your body. You have poured out your life that we might live. We thank you, for we have tasted your goodness in this meal. Fed, we are strengthened; filled, we are renewed to share the abundance of your love with a hungry world. Into your loving and merciful ways, Source of Being, we commend our lives. Amen.

❖**HYMN** "Be Thou My Vision" **#450**
(CCLI Song #3608030. Eleanor Henrietta Hull | Jack Schrader | Mary Elizabeth Byrne © Words: Public Domain. Music: 1989 Hope Publishing Company.)

❖**SENDING FORTH**

POSTLUDE..... "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" *John Zundel, Arr. by Joel Raney*

Pastor: The Rev. Sara K. Snowden

Lector: Charles Fortney

Greeter: Janice Bingaman

Communion Servers: Karen Maurer & Sue Cory

Worship Pianist: Amy Dickman

Call to Worship: From *A Wee Worship Book*, Fourth Incarnation, 12-13.
(Glasgow, Scotland: Wild Goose Publications, 1999).

*In gratitude to Anne Apple and The Presbyterian Outlook for inspiring
much of this evening's service.*

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