

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship for March 2, 2022

Ash Wednesday

Gathering Music

Opening Prayer

Covenant God of love and mercy, we come to you at the beginning of these forty days, remembering how Jesus fasted and prayed for forty days in the wilderness. We remember how he steadfastly set his face toward Jerusalem, obedient in living and dying, even though death on a cross. We too would walk these next forty days in humble obedience, following our Savior, Jesus Christ, in our everyday lives at home, at work, and in your world. Prepare us anew, we pray, to keep our hearts and minds fixed on Jesus, ready and willing from now on to live for him. **Amen.**

*Hymn ***The Old Rugged Cross***

***On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.***

Refrain:

***So, I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.***

***O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary. [Refrain]***

Call to Confession

Lent is a journey of deepening reflection and renewal, an opportunity to make new commitments in faith. We prepare for the journey by setting aside

burdens that would weigh us down.
Let us turn to God and confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

***Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made
and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent.
Create in us new and contrite hearts,
that truly repenting of our sins,
and acknowledging our brokenness,
we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy,
full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our
Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.***

Assurance of Pardon

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
may not perish but may have eternal life.

***May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit,
give us contrite hearts.
May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree,
heal us by his wounds.
May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth,
speak words of pardon and peace.***

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 51:1-10

51:1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

51:2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

51:3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

51:4 Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

51:5 Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

51:6 *You desire truth in the inward being; therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart.*

51:7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

51:8 *Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.*

51:9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

51:10 *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.*

Meditation

The Rev. Jennifer A. Baer

Imposition of Ashes

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, calls us to heartfelt repentance, and *urges us to place our hope in God alone.*

***Almighty God,
you have created us out of the dust of the earth.
May these ashes remind us of our mortality and penitence
and teach us again that only by your gracious gift
are we given everlasting life
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.***

Prayers of the People

God of new birth,
we praise you for being the giver of life and the victor over death,
for the evidence of new life we see in creation . . .
for our baptism, a sign of our union with Christ
in his death and resurrection . . .
for the promise of the coming kingdom . . .
God of new birth,
we acknowledge that all of life is sustained by you, so we pray
for creation and its care . . .
for the nations of the world, especially . . .
for our nation and those in authority . . .

for this community and its leaders . . .
for the church universal, its mission, and those who minister . . .
for our local church and its ministry . . .
for persons with particular needs . . .
We pray all these things in the name of the triune God,
the giver and sustainer of life. **Amen.**

Litany: A Special Lenten Fast

- Give up harsh words: use generous ones.
- Give up unhappiness: take up gratitude.
- Give up anger: take up gentleness and patience.
- Give up pessimism: take up hope and optimism.
- Give up worrying: take up trust in God.
- Give up complaining: value what you have.
- Give up stress: take up prayer.
- Give up judging others: discover Jesus within them.
- Give up sorrow and bitterness: fill your heart with joy.
- Give up selfishness: take up compassion for others.
- Give up being unforgiving: learn reconciliation.
- Give up words: fill yourself with silence, and listen to others.

— anonymous, Latin America. Posted on the [CAFOD](#) website.

Benediction

Postlude

Head Deacons: Chuck Borland & Karen Sassaman

Pastor: Rev. Jennifer A. Baer

Music Director: Pamela Carroll

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