

**WELCOME TO THE ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AT
EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, the 40-day period of fasting and penitence before Easter. On Ash Wednesday, we receive the sign of the cross on our foreheads reminding us of our mortality and humanity as we begin the Lenten Fast. The ashes are a Biblical symbol of repentance, sorrow, and humility. There are many cases in the Scriptures of wearing ashes as a sign of penitence, often while wearing sackcloth.

As we receive the ashes this evening, remember that “from dust we were created and to dust we shall return.” (Genesis 3:19). As we have been baptized in Jesus Christ, we participate in both his death and his resurrection. While we acknowledge in humility our mortality and our need for God’s forgiveness and grace in our lives, we hold fast to the truth that death does not have the last word as Jesus journeys to Jerusalem.

Unison Reading: Matthew 6:1-6

“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.?”

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MINISTERS—ALL OF US!

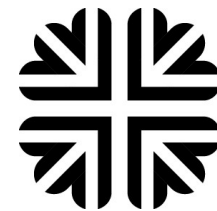
STAFF

Dr. Bradley D. Smith, Pastor

Dr. Douglass D. Key, Senior Associate Pastor
Rev. Emily M. Mooneyhan, Associate Pastor
Rev. Dr. J. Ben Sloan, Parish Associate
Bill Collins, Business Manager
Anna Mills Cox, Sr. Communications Officer
Blythe Lewis, Director of Communications
Emmet Hough, Director of Christian Life Center
James Cassidy, A/V Director

Rev. W. Croskeys Royall, Associate Pastor
Rev. Dr. Carol J. Byrd, Parish Associate
Fredna Lee, Director of Music Ministry
Louis Shirer, Organist
Emily Higgins, Director of Middle School Youth
Katie Herndon, Day School Director
Christy Rippy, Treasurer
Caroline Bennett, Small Groups Dir./Librarian

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024



**E A S T M I N S T E R
P R E S B Y T E R I A N**

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PLEASE ENTER THE SANCTUARY SILENTLY

In Christ's name we welcome you to our Ash Wednesday service. Ash Wednesday allows us the opportunity to meditate on our mortality, sinfulness and need of a Savior, to renew our commitment to daily repentance, and to remember with confidence and gratitude that Christ has conquered death and sin. Therefore, we ask that you enter the Sanctuary in silence to prepare your heart and mind for worship. We remind you to please take a moment to turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices out of respect for those worshipping around you.

*“God is in His Holy temple,
let all the earth keep silence before Him.”*

PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on "Martyrdom"

Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key

One: Grace and peace to you from God.

All: God fill you with truth and joy.

One: God sent Christ into the world...God's love endures forever.

All: Let us worship God.

†*HYMN OF PRAISE #450

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

*PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

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.

ANTHEM

These Forty Days

Zollene Reissner

Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray, Teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay. Kyrie eleison. We may not know, we cannot tell what pain you had to bear. But in this holy season, Lord, we would your sorrow share. Kyrie eleison. Lord, grant that in our penitence, we may also bring our praise, And through your sacrifice of love, receive your gift of grace. Abide with us that when this life of suffering shall be past, An Easter of unending joy we may celebrate at last! And Lord have mercy upon us, and grant us peace, O Lord

SCRIPTURE READING

Unison Reading: Matthew 6:1-6

Scripture Focus: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

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Pastor: The Word of the Lord!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

MEDITATION

“A Trumpet Blast and a Summons”

Dr. Key

LITANY OF CONFESSION:

Rev. Emily Mooneyhan

(Each petition in the litany will conclude with the following response:

Lord have mercy. // Lord have mercy.

Or, alternately:

Christ have mercy. // Christ have mercy.)

Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done. We have sinned in ignorance; we have sinned in weakness; we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you. Forgive us, for our Savior Christ's sake, and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

CHORAL RESPONSE TO THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Yearning

Craig Courtney

There is a yearning in hearts weighed down by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow. There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness hide and in the shades of death abide, a yearning for tomorrow. There is a yearning for the promised One, the firstborn of creation. There is a yearning for the Lord who visited His own, and by his death for sin atoned, to bring to us salvation. Emmanuel, Emmanuel, with in our hearts, the yearning. There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those who wait the day of His appearing. There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased and we shall see the One who placed within our hearts the yearning. Emmanuel, Emmanuel, with in our hearts, the yearning.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES:

The congregation comes forward to receive the sign of the cross with ashes. From ashes we have come — to ashes we shall return.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN #433

Sign Us With Ashes

PHOENIX

Refrain: **Sign us with ashes, merciful God, children of dust, as to dust we return. Sign us with ashes, merciful God. Mark s and make us your own.**

Congregation, please join the choir in singing the refrain

PRAYER (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.

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #212

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

MARYTRDOM

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Please depart in Silence