

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

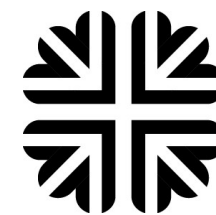
Ash Wednesday is a season of reflection, repentance, and renewal. In Presbyterian circles, it is not simply a morbid reflection on our death. Rather, it is an earnest awareness that each day is a gift to be used for God. Apart from God we are nothing, but with God all things are possible. In the early church, the forty days before Lent were used as a time of study before baptism or joining the church around Easter. This is a good time to join our First Steps class, beginning February 26 at 10 am in room 259 of the Christian Education building.

The church season of Lent begins today. As Presbyterians, we recognize John Calvin said the Christian life consists of mortification (dying to self-centeredness) and vivification (living for God). So we do not just give things up for Lent, though it is a great time to up bad habits. It is also a great time to re-commit yourself to God and to each other as the family of God.

SCRIPTURE READING : Matthew 10:37-39

³⁷ “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, ³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023



**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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MINISTERS—ALL OF US!

STAFF

Dr. Bradley D. Smith, Pastor

Dr. Douglass D. Key, Senior Associate Pastor
Rev. Dr. J. Ben Sloan, Interim Parish Associate
Rev. Dr. Carol J. Byrd, Parish Associate
Bill Collins, Business Manager
Anna Mills Cox, Sr. Communications Officer
Blythe Lewis, Director of Communications
Bethany Parker, Director of Middle School Youth
Emmet Hough, Director of Christian Life Center

Rev. Nicholas P. Demuyneck, Associate Pastor
Rev. W. Croskeys Royall, Associate Pastor
Fredna Lee, Director of Music Ministry
Josh Evanovich, Organist
Katie Herndon, Day School Director
Christy Rippy, Treasurer
Caroline Bennett, Small Groups Dir./Librarian
Alex Rogers, Director of Plant Operations

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
FEBRUARY 22, 2023

PRELUDE

O Radiant Light, O Sun Divine

Plainsong mode I

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Nicholas P. Demuyneck

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: John the Baptist said, Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”

People: Jesus said, "Repent, the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

All: We come to Christ to be forgiven, set free, and restored to be the people God has designed us to be

INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

You are invited, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love and grace, and by meditating on God’s Word.

†*HYMN OF PRAISE #166

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

ST. FLAVIAN

CONFESSION: Psalm 51 (selected verses)

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

People: Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

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

People: Indeed, I have been wicked from birth, a sinner from my mother’s womb.

Leader: Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;

People: Wash me and I will be clean indeed.

Leader: Create in me a clean heart O God and renew a right spirit within me.

All: Cast me not away from your presence nor take your Holy Spirit from me. The sacrifice of God is a humble spirit; a broken and contrite hear, O God, you will not despise.

ASSURANCE

Leader: Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Be Still My Soul

Kevin McChesney

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side. Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain; leave to your God to order and provide; in ev’ry change God faithful will remain. Be still, my soul: your best, your heav’nly friend through thorny ways leads to a joyful end. Be still, my soul: your God will undertake to guide the future, as in ages past. Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake; all now mysterious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul: the wave and winds still know the Christ who ruled them while he dwelt below. Be still. My soul: the hour is hast’ning on when we shall be forever with the Lord, when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone; sorrow forgot, love’s purest joys restored. Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past, all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Memorial Handbells

SCRIPTURE READING : Matthew 10:37-39

Page 10

Pastor: The Word of the Lord! **Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

MEDITATION

“Dying in Order to Live

Rev. Dr. J. Ben Sloan

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #451

Open My Eyes, That I May See

OPEN MY EYES

LITANY FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Leader: Let us pray.

People: Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

Leader: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: We have abused your grace, taking it for granted, and forgetting the cost of the cross—your payment for our sin.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: We all like sheep have gone astray. WE have turned everyone to our own way.

People: The Lord hath laid our iniquity upon Him who had not sin.

Leader: We confess to you our pride, hypocrisy, self-indulgence, and consumer mentality toward you, your church, and our neighbors.

People: We confess to you, O God.

Leader: We have neglected prayer and worship, seeing entertainment and selfishness instead.

People: We confess to you, O God.

Leader: Lord, apart from you we can do nothing. But with you there is forgiveness, peace, and hope. Nothing is impossible with you.

People: Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great. Our Father, who are 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!

IMPOSITION OF ASHES (PLEASE COME FORWARD, AND RETURN THROUGH THE FIRST PEW)

From ashes we have come—to ashes we shall return.

CHORAL MEDITATION

Mery

Craig Courtney

I dare not lift my guilty eyes. I hide my lips in trembling shame. And in the darkness of my soul I shrink from Your rekindling flame. Kyrie eleison, have mercy. In mercy cover me with grace and blot out my iniquity. Renew my heart and wash me clean; grant with Your pardon. Purity. Kyrie eleison, have mercy. In equal measure of Your love, you promise mercy, tender compassion to the one who seeks Your face. A broken heart, a fainting soul, a contrite spirit together cry for Your forgiveness and Your grace. Against You only have I sinned. My deeds are evil in Your sight. Of Your forgiveness let me sing, and in my singing take delight. Kyrie eleison, have mercy.

Susan Boersma

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Leader: Accomplish in us, O Lord, the work of your salvation by the cross of Jesus Christ our Savior.

People: That we may show forth your glory. Restore the joy of our salvation.

RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION

Abendelied

J. Rheinberger (1839-1901)

Bide with us, for evening shadows darken, and the day will soon be over.

You may remain for prayer or depart in silence following the response to the Benediction.