

A Service of Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent' (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance."

—Martin Luther

"Of course, I quite agree that the Christian religion is in the long run a thing of unspeakable comfort, but it does not begin in comfort; it begins in the dismay I have been describing, and it is no use at all trying to go on to that comfort without first going through that dismay. In religion as in war and everything else comfort is one thing you cannot get looking for it. If you look for the truth you may find comfort in the end: if you look for comfort you will not get either comfort or truth—only soft soap and wishful thinking to begin with and in the end despair."

—C.S. Lewis

ASH WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 22, 2023 | 6:30 PM

 **CALL TO REPENTANCE**

Rev. David Driskill

Leader: "Yet even now," declares the LORD,
"return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
and rend your hearts and not your garments."
Return to the LORD your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.
—Joel 2:12-13

All: *Almighty God, who loves all that you have made,
and who forgives all who draw near through Christ Jesus;
create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we,
lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness,
might approach you with the awe and humility which are right.*

CHORAL MEDITATION

"Come Find His Rest"

Chancel Choir

Come weary one, leave thy labors;
Come, lift thy head, see thy Savior and Friend.
His arms are opened wide;
O soul, be satisfied.
Come find his rest.

Take his yoke upon thee,
For he is gentle and lowly in heart.
So learn from Christ the Lord,
Thy Portion and Reward.
Come find his rest.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down
Your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
So weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
And he has made me glad.

Take his yoke upon thee,
For he is gentle and lowly in heart.
So learn from Christ the Lord,
Thy Portion and Reward.
Come find his rest.

Oh, come find his rest.
Come. Come. Come.

☒ A LITANY FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

The congregation will read aloud the *italicized* portions.

O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

have mercy upon us, your covenant people.

O Christ,

have mercy.

Be gracious to us.

Spare us, Good Lord.

Be gracious to us.

And give us help.

By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

Help us, good Lord. Grant us Your promised grace.

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

Help us, good Lord. Shower us with Your kindness.

We true sinners implore You

to hear us, O Lord, and turn us by Your matchless mercy.

Please prosper the teaching of Your Word; bless our prayer and meditation; strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; sustain us in our sorrow and strengthen us through the grace of repentance:

Please hear us, good Lord.

Please draw all to Yourself; bless those who are instructed in the faith; watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of prayer; give abundant blessing to all acts of mercy; and have mercy on us all:

Please hear us, good Lord.

Please turn our hearts to You; turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously hear our prayers.

Please hear us, good Lord.

Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away
the sin of the world,

help us put our sin to death by faith in Your presence and power.

Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

grant us Your peace.

CHORAL MEDITATION

"Mercy"

Chancel Choir

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,
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.

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,
Kyrie eleison,
Have mercy...

READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 51

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

²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

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

⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.

⁵Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.

⁶Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

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

⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

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

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

¹⁴Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

¹⁶For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

¹⁸Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
build up the walls of Jerusalem;

¹⁹then will you delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A LITANY: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (EXODUS 20)

The congregation will read aloud the *italicized* portions.

And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

"You shall have no other gods before me."

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments."

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain."

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you"

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

"You shall not murder."

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

"You shall not commit adultery."

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

"You shall not steal."

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we confess to you that we have grievously sinned in thought, word, and deed. Grant us true repentance; fill us with holy fear; have mercy upon us, and write your good and gracious laws upon our hearts, for the glory of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

☒ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

²Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

³For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

⁵I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

—Psalm 32:1-5

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you forgiveness of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of His Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

"Come All Ye Pining"



1. Lord, we a - dore Thy bound - less grace, _
 2. O won drous gifts of love ___ di - vine, _
 3. Here shall your num - 'rous wants ___ re - ceive; _



the heights and depths un - known, ___
 Dear Source of ev - 'ry good. ___
 a free, a full sup - ply. ___



of par - don, life, and joy, ___ and peace ___
 Je - sus, in Thee, what glo - ries shine! ___
 He has un - meas - ured bliss ___ to give ___



in Thy be - lov - ed Son. ___
 How rich Thy flow - ing blood! ___
 and joys that nev - er die. ___



Come all ye pin - ing, hun - gry, poor, ___ the Sav ior's boun



- ty ___ taste. ___ Be hold a nev - er fail - ing store



___ for ev - 'ry will - ing ___ guest. ___

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

This we pray in the name of the One who taught us to pray, saying:

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 OF GRACE

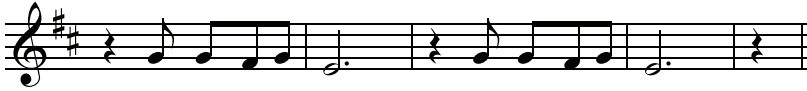
"Psalm 126"



1. Our mouths they were filled, filled_ with laugh- ter, ____
2. The na - tions will say, "He has done great things!" _



our tongues they were loosed, loosed with joy;
The na - tions will sing songs of joy;



Re-store us, O Lord, re-store us, O Lord.

Chorus:



Al-though we are weep- ing, ____ Lord, help us keep sow- ing ____



the seeds of Your King dom, ____ for the day You will reap ____ them. _



Your sheaves we will car- ry, ____ Lord, please do not tar- ry. ____



All those who sow weep- ing will go out with songs of ____ joy.

☒ BENEDICTION

HYMN CREDITS

Find our gathered worship playlist at covpres.com/music-worship.

"Come Find His Rest"

Words and Music: "Gentle and Lowly": Erik Dewar (2021). "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say": Text by Horatius Bonar (1856). Music by KINGSFOLD, traditional English. Arranged by Dan Forrest.

"Mercy"

Words: Susan Bentall Boersma (Based on Psalm 51). Music: Craig Courtney ©2015, Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

"Come All Ye Pining"

Words: Anne Steele, 1716-17788. Music: Brian T. Murphy.

"Psalm 126"

Words: CCLI Song # 7023230. Isaac Wardell. © 2012 Bifrost Arts Music (Admin. by Isaac Wardell). CCLI License # 147209.

Covenant

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