



# 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

"First the midwives, then Moses's mother, and finally his older sister, Miriam, use their wisdom to beat the serpent at his own game, and preserve the seed of the woman. In fact, until Moses grows up, the only man who really features in the story is the dragon-like Pharaoh, hell-bent on destroying God's people."

"While Pharaoh is building cities, an Israelite woman is building a tiny, unimpressive little ark for a child to be thrown in to the water. Yet this ark, like Noah's, will become the vehicle through which God rescues the righteous from watery destruction, foils the plans of the wicked, and creates a new nation in the midst of the old."

—Alistair Roberts and Andrew Wilson

ASH WEDNESDAY | MARCH 2, 2022 | 6:30 PM

## ☒ CALL TO REPENTANCE

Leader: The Kingdom of heaven has drawn near,  
and will arrive in fullness.

*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 INTROIT

"Search Me, O God"

*Chancel Choir*

Search me, O God, and know my heart.

Try me and know my thoughts

Try me and know my mind.

Search me, O God, and know my heart.

And see if there be any wicked way in me,  
And lead me in the way everlasting.

Search me, O God, and know my heart.

Words: Psalm 139: 23-24. Music: Jonny Priano.

## ☒ 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.*

*Hear us as we pray for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine.*

*Grant them protection. Strengthen their faith.*

*Display Your saving power for them and through them.*

*Grant them comfort.*

*Help them hear Your invitation to lament in Your presence.*

*Turn back the seed of the serpent. Protect and promote the seed of the woman.*

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
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.*

O Christ, our Lord, the only mediator,

*show us your mercy and mature us your servants.*

## CHORAL MEDITATION

"From Dust We Came, to Dust Return"

From dust we came, to dust return:  
The end of life and breath.  
Fierce shadows drive us to our knees,  
These haunting dreams of death.  
We claim from Eden's garden days  
Until this time of choice  
To know both good and ill,  
Yet still we heed the serpent's voice.

The good we will, we do not do;  
What we abhor, embrace.  
We clothe our shame, deny our guilt,  
And flee our Maker's face.  
Yet there is One who did not sin,  
Who triumphed through His trials:  
He broke the Tempter's tangling snares  
And saved us from his wiles.

For in God's word Christ shares the bread  
That feeds our hung'ring souls  
And walks with us, God's faithful One,  
The guardian of our souls,  
Till by the love of Love alone  
He heals what sin has rent.  
O Jesus, come and give us life  
These blessed days of Lent.

Words: Michael Joncas. Music: GUARDIAN, CMD, Scot Crandal.

**READING FROM THE PSALMS**

Psalm 2

Why do the nations rage  
and the peoples plot in vain?

<sup>2</sup>The kings of the earth set themselves,  
and the rulers take counsel together,  
against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,

<sup>3</sup>“Let us burst their bonds apart  
and cast away their cords from us.”

<sup>4</sup>He who sits in the heavens laughs;  
the LORD holds them in derision.

<sup>5</sup>Then he will speak to them in his wrath,  
and terrify them in his fury, saying,

<sup>6</sup>“As for me, I have set my King  
on Zion, my holy hill.”

<sup>7</sup>I will tell of the decree:

The LORD said to me, “You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you.

<sup>8</sup>Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,  
and the ends of the earth your possession.

<sup>9</sup>You shall break them with a rod of iron  
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

<sup>10</sup>Now therefore, O kings, be wise;  
be warned, O rulers of the earth.

<sup>11</sup>Serve the LORD with fear,  
and rejoice with trembling.

<sup>12</sup>Kiss the Son,  
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,  
for his wrath is quickly kindled.

Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*



## CONFESSION OF SIN

### Westminster Short Catechism Q.87

Leader: What is repentance unto life?

*All: Repentance unto life is a saving grace,  
whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin,  
and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ,  
doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God,  
with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

The congregation will read aloud the *italicized* portions.

Let us pray.

*Most holy and merciful Father:*

*We confess to You and before one another,  
and before 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.*

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.

We have been deaf to Your call to serve, as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ.

We have grieved Your Holy Spirit.

We confess to You, Lord, all our past and present unfaithfulness:  
the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives.

*We confess to You, Lord.*

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,  
and our exploitation of other people,

Our selfish anger and our shallow frustrations,  
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

Our disordered love of worldly goods and comforts,  
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

Our negligence in prayer and worship,  
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done:  
for our blindness to human need and suffering,  
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

*Accept and sanctify our repentance, Lord.*

For all false judgments,  
for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,  
and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

*Accept and sanctify our repentance, Lord.*

For our waste and pollution of Your good creation,

*Accept and sanctify our repentance, Lord.*

Restore us, good Lord, and let Your kindness have its effect upon us;

*Favorably hear us, for Your mercy is great.*

Accomplish in us the fullness of Your salvation,

*That we may show forth Your glory in the world.*

By the cross and passion of Your Son our Lord,

*Bring us with all Your saints to the joy of his resurrection.*

*Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thank You for hearing our prayer  
in the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord.*

 **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

And the LORD will guide you continually  
and satisfy your desire in scorched places  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters do not fail.  
And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to dwell in.

—Isaiah 58:11-12

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. \_\_\_



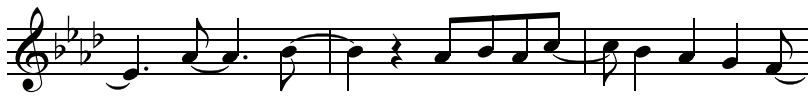
of par - don, life, and joy, \_\_\_ and peace \_  
Je - sus, in Thee, what glo - ries shine! \_  
He has un - meas - ured bliss \_\_\_ to give \_



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. \_\_\_

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

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

### READING FROM THE PENTATEUCH

Exodus 1:1-7

Now these are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household: <sup>2</sup>Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, <sup>3</sup>Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, <sup>4</sup>Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. <sup>5</sup>All the descendants of Jacob were seventy persons; Joseph was already in Egypt. <sup>6</sup>Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. <sup>7</sup>But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

Exodus 1:8-14

Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. <sup>9</sup>And he said to his people, "Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. <sup>10</sup>Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." <sup>11</sup>Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses. <sup>12</sup>But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel. <sup>13</sup>So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves <sup>14</sup>and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves.



**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.*

(Silent and spoken prayers for Ukraine and the surrounding areas.)

*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.

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## ☒ BENEDICTION





# Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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