

**WELCOME TO  
BRICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Ash Wednesday Service**

**February 14, 2024**



PRELUDE

*Pastorale on "In the Cross"*  
W.R. Mahns

arr. Janet Linker

OPENING SENTENCES

God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

**God's love endures forever.**

God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart in the sea; though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**God's love endures forever.**

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who trust in you. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that truly repenting of our sins, and acknowledging our brokenness, we may receive 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.**

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Merciful God, your word is our way of truth and life. Create in us hearts that are clean and put your Holy Spirit within us, so that we may receive your grace and declare your praise forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### 1<sup>ST</sup> SCRIPTURE READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

#### ANTHEM

*"Restoration"*

by Heather Sorenson

BPC Choir | Keyboardist: W. R. Mahns

#### 2<sup>ND</sup> SCRIPTURE READING

2 Cor. 5:20b – 6:10

#### SILENT REFLECTION

*You are invited to take the next few minutes to silently reflect on how God is calling you to rediscover your Beloved Identity in Christ.*

*You may choose to use the Lenten Prompts for  
Self-Examination included on pages 6 & 7 in your bulletin.*

## LITANY OF PENITENCE

**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.**

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.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have not listened 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.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness: The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

**We confess to you, O God.**

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

**We confess to you, O God.**

Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**We confess to you, O God.**

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

**We confess to you, O God.**

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

**We confess to you, O God.**

Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,  
**Accept our repentance, O God.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,  
**Accept our repentance, O God.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us,  
**Accept our repentance, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.  
**Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

#### THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

#### IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*Those who so desire may come forward to receive an imposition of ashes as a sign of penitence not only for our individual sin, but also in recognition of our complicity in the sin of the world.*

- Remember you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return –

SPECIAL MUSIC

*“Touch Me with Ashes”* by Stacey Nordmeyer  
BPC Choir | Keyboardist: W. R. Mahns

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Ezekiel 36:25-27

Hear the promise of God: "I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you will be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances."

Friends, the promises of God are true: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Live now as new people, free to love God and neighbor.

BLESSING

1 Thess. 5:23

May the God of peace make you holy in every way and keep your whole being— spirit, soul, and body— free from every sin at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

POSTLUDE  
Raney

*"Wondrous Love"*

arr. Joel

W.R. Mahns

# LENTEN PROMPTS FOR SELF-EXAMINATION <sup>1</sup>

## SINS AGAINST OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR LORD

- Pride, self-satisfaction, self-righteousness, hard-heartedness
- Worship: more performance than true devotion
- Controlled by fear and anxiety rather than by faith
- Holding back our money in fear of not having enough in the future
- Too little time spent one-on-one with my Lord
- Neglect of prayer, the Word, spiritual direction
- Idolatry – gaining meaning from things instead of from God
- Hypocrisy, inauthenticity
- Joyless labor in God's house instead of joyful work by God's side
- Allowing the world to change us instead of our changing the world
- Not giving God first consideration in all decisions
- Slowness to acknowledge and confess my sins...

## SINS AGAINST OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH EACH OTHER

- Lack of love for each other; little true connection between us;
- Demanding total agreement; allowing others to be demonized for holding different opinions
- Judgmental spirit, lack of grace, rigidity, being overly demanding
- Talking more than listening
- Gossiping
- Complaining
- Not taking in what the other is saying and weighing it in Holy Spirit and instead reacting immediately against it
- Leaders not bringing prophetic challenges to people ...

## SINS AGAINST OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THOSE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

- Lack of sacrificial service to the poor and oppressed
- Separating ourselves from the world so that we don't see social problems that keep people oppressed and captive
- Weak engagement with those who set social policies
- Lack of passion for those who don't know Jesus; failure to build bridges of relationships through service
- Failure to call others to live in accord with God's sovereign rule as characterized by love and justice and shalom for all
- Lack of vision for the church in our city/region
- Weakness in intercessory prayer for others and our ministries
- Lack of equal respect for all cultures, and between each
- Consumer mentality, allowing our possessions to own us instead of investing in Kingdom work
- Laziness – "Let someone else do it."
- Failure to live as good stewards of the earth and all God has provided for us to share with one another
- Acceptance of and acquiescence to social sins that enslave and hurt others—pornography, slave labor practices, domestic violence, genocide, war, limiting access to food, housing, healthcare, etc.
- Refusing to blow the whistle on social and personal sin so that others may know God's love for all ...

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/ash-wednesday-service1.pdf>



**We hope that you will join us for these Lent and Easter services:**

- Palm Cross making – Sunday, March 17 at 6:00 pm in the FLC.
- Palm Sunday – Sunday, March 24 – Children’s program immediately following worship in the FLC.
- Maundy Thursday – March 28 at 6:00 PM – Agape Meal and Service in the FLC. Please RSVP to Pat in the office (732-477-0676 or Brick.Presbyterian@verizon.net ).
- Holy Saturday Silent Campfire Vigil – March 30 – 7:30 – 9:30 PM in the manse backyard. Drop in for the whole time or just part of the time.
- Easter Sunday – March 31 – Worship at 10:00 AM and an Easter Egg Hunt in the Front Yard (FLC in inclement weather) at 11:00 AM.