

Collingswood Presbyterian Church



ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5, 2014

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COLLINGSWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5, 2014

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Silent Prayer

*Merciful God, you gave your Son to suffer the shame of the cross.
Save us from hardness of heart, that, seeing him who died for us,
we may repent, confess our sin, and receive your overflowing love,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Centering Music

Call to Worship

Leader: Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, including nursing infants. Let even the bride and bridegroom rise from their nuptials. Gather everyone!

People: And you ministers: Weep! Pray to the Lord on our behalf, saying, "Spare your people, O Lord. Don't let others look at us and wonder where you are, O Lord. Spare, oh spare, your people!"

Leader: "Return to me with all your heart," says the Lord. "Yet even now, return to me! Rend your hearts with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning."

People: O Lord, we turn to you. Turn now to us, and forget not your heritage, for you are God -- gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

ALL: Almighty God: you love all your children, and do not want to see them punished for their sins. Help us to face up to ourselves, admit we are in the wrong, and raise our eyes with confidence to your mercy; in Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.

***Hymn:** *"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"* GTG #166

Welcome and Introduction to Our Lenten Journey

Introduction of Confirmation Class

***Call to Confession**

Leader: "Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord.

"Though your sins be as scarlet I shall make them white as snow."

In penitence and faith in the goodness of God who wants good things for us, let us confess our sins.

***Prayer of Confession**

**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.**

***Time for Self Examination**

Silence

You may be seated.

Psalm 51: 1 -17 (responsively)

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

**People: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.**

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

People: Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.

Leader: Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

People: You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

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

People: Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

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

People: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.

Leader: Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

People: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

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

People: Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

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

People: For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt-offering, you would not be
pleased.

Leader: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

***Time for Self Examination**

Silence

A Reading of Isaiah 58: 1-14

Time for Self Examination

Silence

***Hymn:** *"Just as I Am, without One Plea"* GTG #442

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 6: 1-7

Time for Self Examination

Silence

A Litany of Repentance

Leader: 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.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

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

People: we confess to you, O God.

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

People: we confess to you, O God.

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

People: we confess to you, O God.

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

People: we confess to you, O God.

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

People: we confess to you, O God.

Leader: 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,

People: accept our repentance, O God.

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

People: accept our repentance, O God.

Leader: For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack
of concern for those who come after us,

People: 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.

Time for Self Examination

Silence

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Prayer over the ashes:

Almighty God,

You created us out of the dust of the earth.

May these ashes be for us

A sign of our mortality and penitence,

A reminder that only by your gracious gift

Are we given everlasting life,

Through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

People are invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes.

If you wish to receive the ashes on your hand, please indicate to the pastor.

***Hymn:** *"Just a Closer Walk With Thee"* GTG #835

***Benediction**

***Postlude**



**Those who are able, please stand.*

Go Forward and Serve!

Be a part of God's work through CPC!



Lenten Series 2014 - "God is Still Speaking"

Sunday, March 9 - First Sunday of Lent

10:30 am - Sunday Worship Sermon Series "Course Correction"

5:30 pm - Soup Supper in the lounge and hymn sing for all ages

Sunday, March 16 - Second Sunday of Lent

5:30 pm - Lounge Soup Supper

"From Narnia to Hogwarts: God's Powerful Message for us Today..

Sunday, March 23 - Third Sunday of Lent

5:30 pm - Lounge Soup Supper

a discussion and video presentation of the religious themes in the novel "Chronicles of Narnia" by CS Lewis, and the movie "Lion, Witch, and the Wardrobe".

Sunday, March 30 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

5:30 pm - Lounge Soup Supper

continued discussion of Christian themes in novels and movies

Sunday, April 7 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

Communion

Sunday, April 13 - Palm Sunday

Palm processional and choirs

Thursday, April 17 - Maunday Thursday

7:00 pm - Tenebrae Service

Sunday, April 20 - Easter Sunday Worship

Flowered cross in Memorial Garden and Easter Egg hunt for kids.