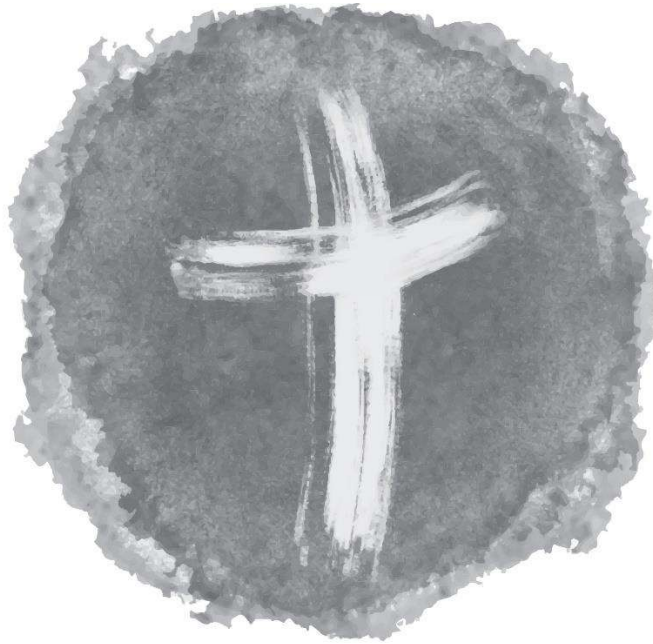


TAKOMA PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 22, 2023

Live streamed at 7:00 p.m.



Ash WEDNESDAY

310 Tulip Avenue, Maryland 20912

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A Church for All People Isaiah 56:7

“Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with a public act of confession and contrition. We begin a journey from the ashes of death to the joy and justice of resurrected life, a journey of changing directions from self-serving towards the self-giving way of the cross.

Acknowledging that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, we stand in solidarity as fellow creatures before our Creator, acutely aware of our mortality and our radical dependence on God’s grace. As Nadia Bolz-Weber has put it, “What is so wonderful about Ash Wednesday and Lent is that through being marked with the cross and reminded of our own mortality we are free. Reminded that the God of your salvation, the same God who created you from the very earth to which you will return – the very God of Moses and Sarah and Abraham is also God for you. This God delights in the truth that you are God’s very own redeemed sinner beloved in all your broken beauty. So, as you receive these ashes and hear the promise that you are dust and to dust you shall return, know that it is the truth, and that the truth will set you free in a way that nothing else ever can.”

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

from Psalm 51

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

***Opening Song 544**

“Bless the Lord”

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God’s holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

Prayer

A Reading from Scripture

Genesis 2:4b-7

Meditation

Rev. Mark Harper

Litany of Penitence

Holy God, we confess to you and one another that we have sinned, in our thoughts, our words, and in our actions.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have not loved you or our neighbors or this earth with our whole hearts.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have failed to do justice and to love mercy and to live humbly.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have despoiled the natural world that you created in beauty and rich diversity.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We continually store up possessions as earthly treasure and neglect the true treasure that you offer.

Have mercy on us, O God.

With honesty, we confess our pride, our envy of others, our anger, our self-indulgence, our contempt for those who differ from us.

Have mercy on us, O God.

So we begin a journey through Lent with the marks of human brokenness upon us. Accompany us on the way; forgive us as we stumble; encourage us as we learn the way of discipleship; bring us safely to the cross and the empty tomb. Restore us to wholeness, and embrace us in your steadfast love

Turn to us in your mercy, O God, and redeem us. Amen.

Invitation to the Observance of a Holy Lent

Imposition of Ashes

Responsive Prayer

Holy God, who calls us to journey through the wilderness, we step forward with courage, called to walk in the way of Christ. **May we walk in humility, as did Abraham and Sarah when they were called to a land they did not know; in honesty, as did the Samaritan woman when Jesus met her at the well; in fortitude, as did Jesus when confronted by the Tempter.** Help us to repent individually as well as collectively, O God. **Teach us to see and repent of the social brokenness we have caused, the injustices and inequalities we have turned away from.**

Give us compassion for the disasters and mourning that others experience, and show us how to be healers even as we ourselves are healed.

And then and only then, after this hard season of reflection, repentance, and lamentation, may we know the true joy of Resurrection morning.

We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray like this: **O Holy Trinity of Love, holy are you and holy is your name. May your shalom come and your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us our daily bread, and forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Walk with us through times of trial and save us from evil. For the Beloved Community, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

***Closing Song 205 "Live in Charity"**

Live in charity and steadfast love

Live in charity and; God will dwell with you

***Benediction**

Postlude