

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

February 17, 2021
Ash Wednesday

Prelude

John Ross, organ

Welcome

Rev. Chris Peters

Call to Worship

Deacon Robyn Uebele

People of the covenant: God does not remember us according to our sins.

God remembers us according to God's own steadfast love!

The God of our salvation teaches us right paths and leads us in truth.

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness; we put our trust in God today and throughout this journey of Lent.

****Hymn #166 Lord Throughout These Forty Days***

Call to Confession

Time of Silent Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession (Psalm 51)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Amen.

Response to the Confession

***#471 O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.¹***

Assurance of Forgiveness

Thanks be to God, our help and our salvation!

***Response of Praise #577 Lord Have Mercy**

***Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.
Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.***

Special Music

**You are invited to stand in body or spirit.*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Gospels Matthew 6:1-6;16-20

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Meditation “What Will We Give?”

Rev. Chris Peters

***Hymn #434 Restore in Us, O God**

Imposition of Ashes

(You are invited to make the sign of a cross on the foreheads of those in your household or for yourself as a symbol of our human frailty and penitence, and our desire to die to sin and live a new life in Christ.)

Prayers of the People

Deacon Robyn Uebele

The Lord's Prayer

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.

*Charge & Benediction

Postlude

John Ross, organ

The Meaning of Ash Wednesday

Today, Christians all over the world mark the beginning of the season of Lent with a sign of ashes on their forehead. The ashes are a reminder of the words from Genesis 3:19 “*you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*”

In this act, we are reminded of our mortality and our need to ask God to forgive our sin. The Good News of the Christian faith is that through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have received God's grace, and despite our turning from God, God welcomes us back with open arms. God's grace to each of us does not mean that all of our troubles are erased, and all of our problems solved. It does mean that God promises to remain with us, loving us in life and in death. Ashes to Ashes, God remains forever faithful.

**You are invited to stand in body or spirit.*