****Westminster Presbyterian Church

**2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE**

**February 22, 2023**

**Ash Wednesday**

**Prelude** "I Know Not Why God's Wondrous Grace" by Daniel Webster

 Whittle and James McGranahan, arr. Yohan Kim

**Welcome** Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

**\*Call to Worship (Psalm 51:1, 10, 12)**

One: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

***All: According to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.***

One: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

***All: And put a new and right spirit within me.***

*One: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,*

***All: And sustain in me a willing spirit.***

**\*Hymn 433 Sign Us with Ashes**

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Time of Silent Confession**

**\*Responsive Prayer of Confession**

Leader: Creator God, you fashioned us out of dust, breathing your Spirit into us, so we might sing your praise.

*Lectern Side: But we have denounced your gift of life in order to be our own gods, clinging to death-dealing idols of our own making.*

*Pulpit Side: We have denied our creaturely status, seeking to lord it over those we label “less-than.”*

*Lectern Side: We squelch all who are different through ignoring, belittling, murdering, and bombing.*

*Pulpit Side: We believe survival-of-the-fittest lies, discounting the weak, and profiting by others’ pain.*

Leader: Not trusting in your providence, we stop our ears to cries of those in need because we’re afraid we won’t have enough.

*Lectern Side: We have been unfaithful stewards, O Lord.*

*Pulpit Side: We live in a state of sin among a people of sin.*

*Lectern Side: Save for your grace, we perish.*

*Pulpit Side: Remember our making, Creator God; remember we are dust.*

***All: Have mercy on us according to your loving kindness. Breathe new life into us once more, so we might be the people you created us to be. Restore unto us the joy of your salvation that we might do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray, Amen.***

**\*Response to the Confession #437**

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

You are the Christ, giver of mercy!

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness**

…Know you are forgiven and be at peace.

***Thanks be to God, our help and our salvation!***

**\*Response of Praise #649, v. 1 & 3**

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,

that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found,

was blind, but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,

I have already come.

‘Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,

and grace will lead me home.

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture**

Hebrew Prophets Isaiah 58:1-12 O.T. pg. 688

Gospel Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 N.T. pg. 5

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

**Meditation** “Is Not This the Fast I Choose?”Rev. Chris Peters

**Imposition of Ashes**

*(Tonight, we will have a time of imposition of ashes. This is a time of marking our foreheads with ashes in the sign of a cross. This sign is a symbol of our human frailty and penitence, and our desire to die to sin and live a new life in Christ. If you would like to receive this sign from a pastor, we ask that you come down the center aisle and return to your seats by the side aisles.)*

**Prayers of the People**

**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.***

**Special Music** "Psalm 51" by Russ Michaels

 Michael Jha, *baritone*

Westminster Choir

**\*Charge & Benediction** Rev. Chris Peters

**Postlude** "Amazing Grace" by John Newton, arr. Yohan Kim

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\*Please rise in body or spirit for these parts of worship.

Westminster welcomes and values children in worship. If a parent feels a break is needed for their child during the service, our **Infant Room** is available. This is located off the entry foyer through the Sheridan Blvd./West-end sanctuary doors. When you enter the foyer, turn to your right, where the door will be open.

**Giving to Westminster’s Mission and Ministry**

**At Church**: An offering to support Westminster may be placed in our Giving Baskets following the service. These are located by the Sheridan Blvd. doors in the narthex and the sanctuary elevator exit. Look for the signs that read “Giving Basket.”

**For online giving,** scan the QR code.

**Ministers:** The whole congregation

**Pastors:** Rev. Chris Peters & Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

**Music Director:** Ronnie Zanella

**Organist:** John Ross

**Director of Children & Youth:** Trish Souliere

**Ushers:** Diana Wild

If you don’t want to take your bulletin with you, please dispose of it in the recycling basket as you exit the sanctuary.