



PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
OF THE ROSES

Reaching Out with Nurturing Love to All People



We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes, a biblical symbol of mourning and penitence. This ancient sign speaks of the fragility of human life and marks the penitence of the community of faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God, beginning with this service tonight.

First time here?

Thank you for coming! Please pick up a Welcome Bag in the narthex. Please join us for coffee before and after the service

Assistance needed?

Large print bulletins and hearing devices are available from the ushers.

Tip for the Service

*Asterisk means please stand if able.

The **BOLD** is spoken by the congregation. Please sign the red friendship pad in the pews and pass it.

Children with you?

Activity materials for young worshipers are in the entry way. Childcare and Sunday School are provided during the service.

Questions on where to go?

Please ask the Ushers by the doors.

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

*One asterisk signifies the congregation stands if able.

Throughout the service the **bold type** is spoken by the congregation.

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, rend your hearts and not your clothing.

**We return to our God who is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
Let us worship God!**

*HYMN #423

Create In Me A Clean Heart

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsively)

Creator God, you fashioned us out of dust, breathing your Spirit into us.

**But we have denounced your gift of life in order to be our own gods,
clinging to death-dealing idols of our own making. We believe survival-of-the-fittest lies, discounting the weak, and profiting by others' pain.**

Too often we stop our ears to cries of those in need because we're afraid we won't have enough.

Remember our making, Creator God; remember we are dust. 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.

SILENT CONFESSION – (You may write a word describing a burden you want to let go and give to God for freedom and healing.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsively) Ezekiel 36:25-26

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.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Lord, of life, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that as we hear these words they may becoming living Word for us to the glory of our living Lord Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 58: 1-12

Chris Rhodes

This is the Word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON "Return to Christ with Your Whole Heart" Rev. Dr Cindy Alloway

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION and IMPOSITION OF ASHES

PRAYER OF BLESSING AND THANKSGIVING (responsively)

Holy God, pour out your spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine. That the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the body of Christ poured out for each one of us. By your Spirit, unite us with Christ and with your church in all the world. Save us through the grace of Christ Jesus and wash us clean from sin so that we might be redeemed and reconciled to you.

O Lord we thank you for encouraging us to lay our burdens on the Cross and leave them for your healing during Lent. With thanks and praise we pray the prayer you taught us saying: (The Lord's Prayer)

BLESSING OF THE ASHES

Bless, O God, these ashes and those who receive them. Let them be for us a reminder of our mortality, a call to sincere repentance, and a testimony to your abundant mercy in Jesus Christ. Amen

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS BY INTINCTION

(Please take a piece of the bread or gluten free wafer and dip it in the grape juice.)

IMPOSITION OF ASHES (will be placed on forehead unless hand is extended)

*HYMN #527(to be sung during communion) "Eat this Bread" Jacques Berthier

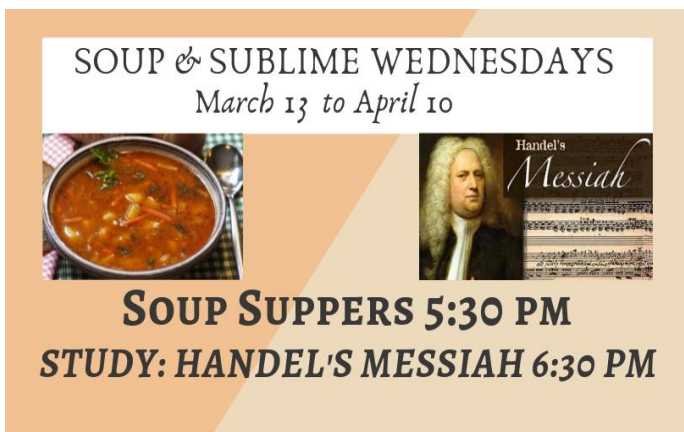
COMMUNION PRAYER (unison)

Thank you, gracious God, for the gift of life. Thank you for Christ and his indwelling Spirit among us. Help us discipline ourselves to walk in the Way of the Lord and be mindful of this season of Lent, that we might serve all of creation in love, to the glory of God, Christ, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

*HYMN (insert) *Ash Wednesday Comes and, Lord, We Hear*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



SOUP & SUBLIME WEDNESDAYS
March 13 to April 10

SOUP SUPPERS 5:30 PM
STUDY: HANDEL'S MESSIAH 6:30 PM

BEGINNING NEXT WEDNESDAY
Join us for Soup Suppers and a Study on Handel's Messiah March 13-April 10.
The suppers start at 5:30 pm and are followed by the class. Suppers will be simple-choice of meat or vegetarian soup, bread, and fruit. **Those who are attending are asked to bring their own bowl, cup, and silverware if possible.**