

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
Pewee Valley Presbyterian Church
March 6, 2019

Call to Worship Reverend Joel Weible

Prelude Ah, Holy Jesus DALLAS BLAIR

First Reading Joel 2:1-2, 12-17a Ashia Stoess

Hymn No. 81 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days ST. FLAVIAN

Second Reading Psalm 51:1-4, 10-12

Unison Prayer

Merciful God, we come to you today realizing that we are not who you want us to be. Help us to let go of our past, that we may turn toward you and live again the life of faith. Help us call out our fear and hatred, our anger and self-pity. Lift the burden these negative emotions place on our shoulders. Help us set aside our guilt and enter a season of healing. As we pray and fast tonight, help us to become simple people, that we may see you plainly. As we wear the mark of ashes, rekindle the sign of hope within our eyes. Let us draw near to you now. Amen.

Recognizing That Which Binds Us

Take the slip of papers that are in your bulletin and write on it what you would like to see “removed” from the world. This may be something personal or from our community, or something national or global. What would you like to see “burned away” in your life or from the world.

No one will read what you write. Keep your paper for the end of the service.

When everyone is finished, a period of quiet meditation follows.

Third Reading 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2

Anthem The Holy Heart MARY MCDONALD
The Men’s Quartet with Shirley Hawkes, accompanist

The Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation
1 Corinthians 11:23-26

The Ashes of Forgiveness

Pastor: As the bread and cup are symbols, symbols of the unity intended for the body of Christ (the church) and of the communal cup we are meant to share, the ashes, too, are a symbol – of purification. As a fire burns, it can separate what is valuable from what is valueless, just as an assayer’s fire can separate a base metal from one that is precious. In this same way, these ashes are pure. They are a symbol of the new space that is now present within us for new life. Let us claim the new life Jesus offers us by praying to our God:

All: God of love and mercy, we come to you in prayer, seeking to change our hearts and minds. We confess the baggage of idolatry, bitterness, and self-concern that we drag along with us, struggling under its weight all the while we attempt to follow Christ. Cleanse us from our attachment to these old things. Burn away their power in us and purify our hearts. In place of old ways fill us with the new fire of your Holy Spirit. Open up new opportunities for us to follow Jesus in loving you and our neighbors. In Jesus name we ask these things. Amen.

Pastor: Friends, receive the good news of our faith, for in the name of Jesus, I announce our sins are forgiven. The old has died. Behold, the new is coming!

Communion by Intinction

Communion Music Epitaphe LOUIS VIERNE

The Sign of the Cross (if desired)

Hymn No. 85 What Wondrous Love Is This WONDROUS LOVE

Dismissal Prayer

Relinquishing That Which Binds Us

As you leave the sanctuary, if you desire, place the paper on which you wrote your confession into the fire. This Lenten season, be a part of the change you seek. Begin again.

Postlude Mankind, Weep for Your Sins J. PACHELBEL