

## ASH WEDNESDAY AND THE BEGINNING OF LENT

The origin of the custom of using ashes in religious ritual is lost in the mists of pre-history, but we find references to the practice in our own religious tradition in the Old and New Testaments, with many references to “repenting in sackcloth and ashes.” The use of ashes in the Church, however, left only a few records in the first millennium of Church history.

At the beginning of the 11th century, *Abbot Aelfric* notes that it was customary for all the faithful to take part in a ceremony on the Wednesday before Lent that included the imposition of ashes. Near the end of that century, *Pope Urban II* called for the general use of ashes on that day. Only later did this day come to be called *Ash Wednesday*.

The call to continuing conversion through our Lenten journey is the message of the ashes. We dirty our faces on Ash Wednesday and are cleansed as we embrace the need to die to sin and selfishness at the beginning of Lent so that we can come to fuller life in the Risen One at Easter.

Join us on **Sunday mornings through Lent** as we journey together from Ashes, to the Cross, and into New Life.

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### JESUS AND THE PROPHETS: Our 2018 Daily Lenten Devotionals from Presbyterians Today

Pick up a copy of this year’s Lenten Devotional and spend a little extra time in scripture and prayer this year. Each day this Lent we “meet the people who met Jesus” and hear about what they learned so that we, too, may share their joys and struggles.

Pick up a copy of Jesus and the Prophets at the back of the sanctuary or in the Family Life Center.

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### One Great Hour of Sharing Offering: FISH BANKS

PVPC receives "OGHS" on Easter Sunday, but we hand out the “Fish Banks” to children and families to collect coins throughout Lent. **Please pick up a bank after worship** to help sustain the important PC(USA) ministries and programs that are supported by the OGHS Offering. Your gift enables the church to share God’s love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

## NOTES ON TONIGHT’S WORSHIP MUSIC

### Kyrie (The Spheres) from *Sunrise Mass*

Tonight’s prelude was written by Ola Gjeilo (pronounced YAY-lo), a Norwegian composer and pianist, born in 1978, now living in the United States. “The Spheres” is the opening chorale from *Sunrise Mass* which musically intends to describe a metaphysical journey from the heavens to earth. Gjeilo’s intent was to evoke an atmosphere that sounds like floating in space, in deep silence, between stars and planets...a sacred meditation, a spiritual and contemplative journey.

### Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

The text of this familiar Lenten hymn was written by Claudia Frances Ibotson Hernaman, the daughter of an Anglican priest. She wrote over one hundred fifty hymns, many of which were for children. This hymn reminds us how Lent connects us with Christ’s temptation in the wilderness and prepares us for Easter.

### Vater unser im Himmelreich

This is Luther’s interpretation of *The Lord’s Prayer* composed by J.S. Bach. In Bach’s day, this was used as a hymn during Communion. Of all the various organ arrangements he composed of this chorale, this is the most subdued.

### What Wondrous Love Is This

The words to this American folk hymn were published about 1811 in a camp meeting songbook titled *A General Selection of the Newest and Most Admired Hymns and Spiritual Songs No in Use*. It also appeared in a Baptist hymnal published in Frankfort, Kentucky! The haunting melody convinces us that the only adequate response to “wondrous love” is to “sing on!”

### Lacrimosa

Tonight’s postlude is the final unfinished work from *Requiem in D Minor* composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in late 1791, the same year as his death. Mozart only wrote the first eight bars of this chorale while the rest was completed by others. **Lacrimosa** is Latin for “weeping,” and is also a name that was attributed to Mary, mother of Jesus.