

February 14, 2024

ASH WEDNESDAY

First Presbyterian Church, Petaluma CA



“Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart...”

Joel 2:12

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENT

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-13

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near— a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

HYMN *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Come Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of Thy redeeming love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

PRAYER FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 6:19-21

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

(silence is kept for reflection & self-examination)

LITANY OF PENITENCE

Leader: Holy and merciful God,
we confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and
on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart,
and mind, and strength.

**People: We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
Have mercy on us, O God.**

Leader: We have not listened to your call to serve
as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
Have mercy on us, O God.

**People: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness:
The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,
we confess to you, O God.**

Leader: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways
and our exploitation of other people,
we confess to you, O God.
Our anger at our own frustration
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
we confess to you, O God.

**People: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
we confess to you, O God.**

Leader: Our negligence in prayer and worship,
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
we confess to you, O God.

People: **Accept our repentance, O God,
for the wrongs we have done.
For our neglect of human need and suffering
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
accept our repentance, O God.**

Leader: For all false judgments,
for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,
and for our prejudice and contempt
toward those who differ from us,
accept our repentance, O God.
For our waste and pollution of your creation
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
accept our repentance, O God.

People: **Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.
Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great. Amen.**

INVITATION TO ASHES AND THE LORD'S TABLE

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(The pastor marks the forehead of each person with the ashes,
using these words: "*Remember that you are dust, and to dust
you shall return.*")

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

***HYMN** *All to Jesus, I Surrender*

All to Jesus I surrender, All to Him I freely give
I will ever love and trust Him, in His presence daily live

*I surrender all...I surrender all
All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all*

All to Jesus I surrender, Humbly at His feet I bow
Worldly pleasures all forsaken, Take me Jesus, take me now (*chorus*)

All to Jesus I surrender, Make me Savior wholly Thine
May Thy Holy Spirit fill me, May I know Thy power divine (*chorus*)

All to Jesus I surrender, Lord, I give myself to Thee
Fill me with Thy love and power, Let Thy blessing fall on me (*chorus*)

BENEDICTION

Worship Leaders: Pastor John Chase, Accompanist Jenny Smith
