

## **Ash Wednesday - Worship**

### **Third Street Presbyterian Church**

**To join Worship dial-1-347-817-2220 PIN#115207**

#### **PRELUDE**

***“Nearer My God to Thee”***

#### **WORDS OF WELCOME**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**L:** Create in me a clean heart O God

**P:** And renew a right spirit within me

**L:** You look for truth deep within me

**P:** And teach me wisdom in my heart

**L:** Purify me and I shall be clean

**P:** Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow

#### **HYMN :**

***“Take my Life and Let it Be”***

#### **SPECIAL READING - From “A Raisin in the Sun”-Brianna Baker**

#### **PRAYER OF ADORATION— Pastor Reid**

#### **OLD TESTAMENT READING— Isaiah 58:1-12— Allen Lowery**

*In this reading the prophet Isaiah reminds us of what true fasting and repentance are: Not outward works, only but the inner conversion to God in love. Hear the word of God...*

#### **NEW TESTING READING -Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18- Rod Costner**

*The Gospel message is like the Old Testament reading. Outer works of penance have no value in themselves (ritual and liturgy) unless they are related to real sorrow for sin, and love of God. Hear the Gospel of our Lord...*

#### **SPECIAL MUSIC— Gina Massey**

#### **MEDITATION—Pastor Reid**

**SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION** Let us reflect on the gospel message and make our confession and promise of repentance before God. ( silent prayer and meditation)

Lord forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

I confess to you O God, and to my brothers and sisters in Christ, that I have sinned through my own fault, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do. I am truly sorry and humbly repent.

#### **BLESSING AND MARKING WITH ASHES— Pastor Reid**

**L:** Dear friends in Christ, let us ask our Father to bless these ashes which we will use as the mark of our repentance. Lord, bless these ashes by which we show that we are dust. Pardon our sins and keep us faithful to the discipline of Lent, for you do not want sinners to die but to live with the risen Christ.

Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you created us. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Genesis 3:19 says you are dust and to dust you shall return. Amen

*(those who wish to receive the ashes may now mark your foreheads in the shape of the cross) If you have two persons in your space: One person in the pair asks the other: **“Do you remember?”** **“I remember,”** the other replies. (The first person then traces a cross of ashes on the second's forehead, and then the favor is returned.)*

Finish in us O God, the work of your salvation that we may show the world your glory !

By the cross and passion of your Son, bring us with all believers to the joy of your resurrection.

Hear these words addressed to penitent believers: If anyone does sin we have someone who pleads with the Father on our behalf— Jesus Christ, the righteous one. And he is the means by which our sins are forgiven, and not our sins only, but also the sins of everyone in the world.

**P: Praise be to God for his grace and mercy. Amen.**

#### **THE BLESSING**

***“Make Me a Servant “***

Make me a servant, humble and meek. Lord, Let me lift up those who are weak; and may the prayer of my heart always be: Make me a servant, make me a servant , make me a servant today

#### **POSTLUDE**

## Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. Many churches hold a special service on Ash Wednesday. The service focuses on reminding us of our sinful nature and calling us to deeper reflection and repentance. Ashes, an ancient symbol of grief for sins, are placed on the foreheads of worshipers in the form of a cross as the pastor says, "Remember, that from dust you have come, to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). This cross is a tangible reminder of our sin and our need for Christ's sacrifice.

Traditionally the palms that we waved on Palm Sunday are burned to ashes and brought out for use on Ash Wednesday. Because the sign on our foreheads is cross-shaped, it's meant to remind us of our baptism. We who have died to Christ will be raised with him. So the ultimate point of Ash Wednesday is to face up to some hard realities, buoyed by our confident hope in the One who raised Jesus from the dead and who will have the last word over our lives, too.

Thank you to all who joined us for Ash Wednesday  
Worship Service tonight

Please join us for First Sunday Worship March 7 at 9:30  
Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer—6pm  
March 3, 10, 17  
All via phone conference  
1-347-514-7350 PIN#1692382

**THIRD STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**605 North Highland Street - Gastonia, NC 28052**  
**Ash Wednesday - Worship by phone**  
**February 17, 2021— 6pm**  
**To join Worship dial-1-347-817-2220 PIN#115207**

