

THE SERVICE of Worship

February 22, 2023
Ash Wednesday
7:00 P.M.



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH of
RICHARDSON

Responding to God's love and grace, we WORSHIP with joy, NURTURE with faith, and SERVE others with love.



OPENING VOLUNTARY

“Chorale Prelude”
Terry Metzger

Healey Willan

*CALL TO WORSHIP | *Responsively*

Adapted from Slats Toole, Call to Worship

With fasting, weeping, and mourning,

we return to God.

With honesty and humility,

we acknowledge our humanity.

In accord and in silence,

we offer our prayers.

*HYMN | “Just as I Am, without One Plea”

Glory to God 442

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

NRSV O.T. Pg. 847

NEW TESTAMENT READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

NRSV N.T. Pg. 181-182

HOMILY

Rev. Rosy Robson McCreary

PSALM 51 | “Create in Me a Clean Heart”

Glory to God 422

LITANY OF PENITENCE | *Responsively*

From the Book of Common Prayer

Holy and merciful God,

we confess to you and 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.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O God.

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.

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness.

For the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

have mercy on us, O God.

**Please stand in body or spirit*

For our self-indulgent appetites and ways
and our exploitation of other people,
have mercy on us, O God.

For our anger at our own frustration
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
have mercy on us, O God.

For our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
have mercy on us, O God.

For our negligence in prayer and worship,
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
have mercy on us, O God.

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,
have mercy on us, O God.

For all false judgments,
for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,
and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
have mercy on us, O God.

For our waste and pollution of your creation
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God of our salvation,
and show us your steadfast love.
Turn to us in your mercy and redeem us.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE | *Responsively*

Even now the Lord says,
return to me with all your heart.
God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger,
abounding in steadfast love.

Thanks be to God for this unimaginable grace.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES | *Responsively*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of our Savior,

bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.

Max Bitner, Cantor

Refrain

Sign us with ash - es, mer - ci - ful God, chil - dren of
 dust, as to dust we re - turn. Sign us with ash - es,
 mer - ci - ful God. Mark us and make us your own.

BENEDICTION | *Responsively**Blessing the Dust* by Jan Richardson

All those days you felt like dust, like dirt, as if all you had to do was turn your face toward the wind and be scattered to the four corners or swept away by the smallest breath as insubstantial - did you not know what the Holy One can do with dust?

This is the day we freely say we are scorched.

This is the hour we are marked

by what has made it through the burning.

This is the moment we ask for the blessing that lives within the ancient ashes, that makes its home inside the soil of this sacred earth.

So let us be marked not for sorrow. And let us be marked not for shame.

Let us be marked not for false humility or for thinking we are less than we are—

But for claiming what God can do within the dust,

within the dirt,

within the stuff of which the world is made

and the stars that blaze

in our bones and the galaxies that spiral

inside the smudge we bear.

PLEASE DEPART IN SILENCE

