ASH WEDNESDAY
The Presbyterian Church

February 22, 2023

Prelude

Introitus

Opening Sentences

God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

God's love endures forever.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

God's love endures forever.

*Hymn 166

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you stay.

As you with Satan did contend and did the victory win, O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence, and through this Passiontide, yes, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past, an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

Prayer of Confession (Please be seated)

Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who trust in you. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that truly repenting of our sins, and acknowledging our brokenness, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, pardon and forgiveness.

We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ.

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.

For our self-indulgent appetites and ways and for our exploitation of other people, 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.

Restore us, O God of our salvation, and show us your steadfast love.

Turn to us in your mercy and redeem us. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.
Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.

REFRAIN: “Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home.”

Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, “O sinner, come home!”

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?

Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? REFRAIN

O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!

Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. REFRAIN

Prayer for Illumination

Words of Life
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Psalm 51:1-17

Anthem
Create in Me
Michael Burkhardt

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

2 Corinthians 5:2-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Meditation

Invitation to Observe a Holy Lent

Imposition of Ashes
Worshipers are invited to come forward, beginning with the pews at the back, to receive ashes on forehead or hand.

Congregational Response
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.

*Hymn # 215

What Wondrous Love Is This

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down beneath Gods righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing; while millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on; and when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on;
and when from death I’m free, I’ll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on; and through eternity I’ll sing on.

*Benediction

Postlude
Chanson
Gordon Young
Upcoming Events

Join Micah Ministries in the "Coldest Night of the Year" 5k fund raising walk, Feb. 25, to combat homelessness, hurt, and hunger. Starting and ending at Hurkamp Park, join over 200 other walkers for this event. The walk begins at 5:00 p.m. and goes up to the Mary Washington University campus and returns to the park. There is also a one-mile walking option. The Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church is putting together a team of walkers. You can join by going to the church website.

BYOBowl—Saturday, Feb. 25. 5:00 pm sign making, 6:00 pm dinner. Bring your own Bowl (and spoon!) and a potluck item that is eaten in bowls (soup, chili, mac 'n cheese) and join us in the Fellowship Hall. Drinks will be provided. This is the same night as Micah's Coldest Night of the Year Walk, and we've timed it so you can participate in both. The end of the walking loop conveniently goes by The Presbyterian Church. We will open the doors around 4:30 pm for those participating in the walk to drop off their crockpots and dishware. At 5:00 pm, we will be making signs to show support for the walkers as they pass by the church. The potluck lines open at 6:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you. This night is hosted by the Fellowship Committee.

The Congregational Retreat is March 25 and 26. Come for the weekend or just Saturday. In addition to group activities, shared meals, a service project, and a campfire, there will be plenty of free time to explore Camp Hanover and all it has to offer. The theme for this year's retreat is "Holy Darkness." Come learn how God works in darkness, how we need darkness, and maybe even join a night hike or guided meditation in the darkness. Registration will be open March 5 - 19, on Realm. Registration forms will also be available at church.

Join us the first Sunday of Lent, February 26, for a communion Sunday. Meghann Cotter, an executive leader with Micah Ministries, will join us as a guest preacher.