

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
March 5, 2025
Ash Wednesday



Gathering As a People of God

Preparation: Lent is a season to prepare to celebrate our redemption through the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We begin this season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Tonight, you will be marked with ash and in the sign of a cross. You will hear the words from Scripture, “From dust you came. To dust you shall return. Be at peace.” This ancient sign and ritual speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, the truth of our impermanence and the need for Christ’s love and light. The sign with which we are marked reveals our desire to live repentant lives, individually and as the gathered beloved community, and our hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ

Prelude

Adagio

Antonio Vivaldi

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Welcome & Lighting the Candle

Pastor Lisa Schrott

*** Call to Worship**

Rick Gierman, Liturgist

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

All: God’s love endures forever.

One: 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.

All: God’s love endures forever.

One: God abides with us and teaches us to die to self and to live repentant lives.

All: God’s love endures forever. We return, we remember, and we will listen well. Let us worship God.

*** Hymn #434**

Restore in Us, O God, vs. 1-4
[Baylor]

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: In the name of Christ, we are invited to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and self-emptying love with practices of prayer; with works of loving kindness and mercy; and by meditating on God’s good Word, ancient and new. Before Christ, let us confess our sin, how it is with our life, and our lives together:

All: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, you are one who guards and guides our way. Have mercy upon us. To follow you is to trust you in paradox; that from a broken, aching heart, rises a healing and hopeful heart; that out of weakness and vulnerability, grows the quickening of Christ's Love; that in darkness and despair, the radiance of Christ's Light shines. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, we confess that we fail to follow you; we turn away. Forgive us, we pray. *Silent prayer.* Amen.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: As certain as the morning sun that rises, you are here, Lord. We are grounded in the Source of All Being. This day. This Evening. Every Day.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen!

One: As a forgiven people, let us greet each other, sharing the peace of Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you. *Please greet your fellow worshippers in ways you feel comfortable.*

*** Response #447**

We Are Forgiven

447 We Are Forgiven

We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to
 God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.
 We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

The Word

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 51: 6-12

Rick Gierman, Liturgist

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Spirit of the Living God 288

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

New Testament Scripture

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Meditation

The Practice of Faith

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Special Music

Amira Coleman

Responding to the Word

Prayers of the People

Rick Gierman, liturgist

One: Lord, in your mercy.

All: **Hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

in unison

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sent Out As a People of God

* **Hymn #280** (from the *Gather* hymnal) *Dust and Ashes*
(see insert)

Imposition of Ashes

Imposition of ashes is a way to express our need for God. It is not a sacrament or a requirement. If you so choose to have ashes imposed, you may indicate whether you wish the ashes placed on the back of your hand or your forehead. The ashes we are using this evening are from the palms we waved last Palm Sunday, which were prepared and burned by our youth.

Benediction

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Please depart in silence

* **Please rise in body or spirit**

The liturgy for Ash Wednesday is adapted from *The Presbyterian Outlook*, 2025; written by the Rev. Anne Apple.

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