

* SHARING THE PEACE:

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

DEPARTING PRAYER

God of compassion, through your son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself.

Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts, and serve one another in holy love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

* HYMN: "Take My Life And Let It Be"

Hymnal 697

* BENEDICTION:

Go in peace, love and care for one another in the name of Christ, and may the God of peace make you holy in every way and keep your whole being - spirit, soul, and body free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

*POSTLUDE

**Those who are able may stand*



Memorial Presbyterian Church

Ash Wednesday

February 10, 2016

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the Gospel and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe the Gospel." He also said: "I have come that you might have life, and have that abundantly."

We come before God tonight to hear God's word, to confess our sins, and to ask God to strengthen us in our faith that we might live more holy lives.

Almighty and everlasting God, you have made nothing you have made - and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Most Holy and merciful God,
we confess to you, to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned against you 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 neighbors as ourselves.**

(..... silent prayer)

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He gave power to his disciples to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. I declare to you, therefore, that God is just, and may be trusted to forgive your sins and cleanse you from every kind of wrong.
Thanks be to God for his love and mercy.

* HYMN: "Spirit of the Living God" Hymnal, 288

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST LESSON
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17a Page No. 740
The Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God!

PSALM 51 Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God Hymnal, 423

SECOND LESSON
II Corinthians 5:20b-6:2 (3-10) Page No. 940
The Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Page No. 787
The Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God!

MEDITATION

HYMN Sign Us with Ashes Hymnal, 433
Leader will sing the verses; Congregation will sing the refrain

BLESSING AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

Lord, bless the sinner who asks for your forgiveness and bless all those who receive these ashes. May they keep this Lenten Season in preparation for the joy of Easter.
Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you have 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 Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.

Those wishing to receive ashes come forward and be signed with ashes and the words: "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return".

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray to the Lord.
May our prayer be acceptable to God, our Rock and our Redeemer.
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 your Son, our Lord, bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

(Response)...Lord hear our prayer. **And in your love, answer.**