

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 14TH, 2024 | ASH WEDNESDAY | 6:00PM



OUR APPROACH TO GOD

Come, celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ with us! All are invited to sing, pray and participate in liturgy.

IF YOU ARE ABLE, WE INVITE YOU TO HONOR GOD BY STANDING.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

IF OPENING PRAYER

LON CLARK

O God, help us to use this season of Lent to examine our attachments,
and to sense where You invite us to live more simply and deeply.

Shine the light of Your love into the private corners of our lives

where so much clutter has begun to restrict our freedom.

Grant us the strength to free ourselves from appetites and needs **that drive us into taking, having and wanting more than we need or have time for.**

Teach us that in letting go **we become free, rather than deprived, generous rather than covetous, and spacious rather than restricted.**

This evening, we begin our Lenten pilgrimage, and place our feet
on the road to Easter, to walk the Way that you have walked before us. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION - PSALM 51

PASTOR TANYA MUZZARELLI

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, **and cleanse me from my sin.**
For I know my transgression, **and my sin is ever before me.**
Against you, you alone, have I sinned, **and done what is evil in your sight,**
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.
You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness; **let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.** Hide your face from
my sins, **and blot out all my iniquities.** Create in me a clean heart, O God, **and put a new and**
right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, **and sustain in me a willing spirit.** Then I will teach
transgressors your ways, **and sinners will return to you.** The sacrifice acceptable to God is a
broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

A PERIOD OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Listen, so that you may live: **the steadfast love of the Lord never fails.**
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

I PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the Peace of Christ be with you; **And also with you.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

2 CORINTHIANS 5:16 - 21

PAGE 1799

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

HOMILY

I HYMN #423

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

JAMES M. CAPERS, 1993

I THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Our ancestors in the faith used ashes as a sign of our repentance,
a symbol of the uncertainty and fragility of human life.
Like them, we have tasted the ashes of hopelessness;
we have walked through the ashes of our loss and pain;
we have stood knee-deep in the ashes of our brokenness.
God of all, out of the dust of creation you have formed us and given us life.

**May these ashes not only be a sign of our repentance and death,
but reminders of your gift of grace in Jesus the Christ.**

You are invited to come forward, beginning with those seated in the back, and as a sign of our willingness to enter into this season of Lent, allow the sign of the cross to be placed on your forehead or hand.

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Amen.

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.

I THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 our debts, as we forgive our debtors, lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and glory forever. Amen.

I HYMN #833

O LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO

MATHESON 1881 & PEACE 1884

I BENEDICTION

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THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY!

MUSICIAN: ELIZABETH O'LEARY

LITURGIST: LON CLARK

USHERS: KATHY CLARK AND ED ROTTMAN

Join us for worship this Sunday - **February 18th, 2024 at 10am**
as we continue our Lenten journey. Our theme this Lent is "More than Twelve" as we explore who else - besides the twelve disciples - Jesus encounters in the pages of Scripture. We will continue studying each Sunday's scripture at our midweek **Lenten Soup Study on Wednesdays at 5:30pm beginning February 21st, 2024.**

For the season of Lent, **our Adult Sunday School** classes will be focused on the **Lenten devotional**. Join us in the Library at 9:15am for this discussion.

"A Faith Community, Growing Together, Sharing the love of Christ"

MINISTERS: ALL MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

For more information about our staff and volunteers, visit our website.

The Church Office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30am - 3pm. If you'd like to set up a time to visit Pastor Lauren or Pastor Tanya, please reach out to the church office.

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