

## 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 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.

## We Go Out In God's Name

*Having gathered together in God's name and been fed by God's Holy Word,  
we go out in God's name bearing the peace of Christ to the world.*

Hymn #166 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

Blessing for Ash Wednesday

Benediction

Postlude

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✠Please stand if able. Remain seated if need be.

The season of Lent has been likened to a spiritual journey. As such, Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the journey, the first step. In a sense, we are marked for the journey by the ashes placed on our foreheads. They are signs of our humanity and our finiteness, and of our sin or brokenness. What spiritual disciplines might Christian disciples undertake during this journey? And of course, Jesus journeys with us.

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Readings from *Stages on the Way* by Wild Goose Worship Group and *The Lives We Actually Have* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie.

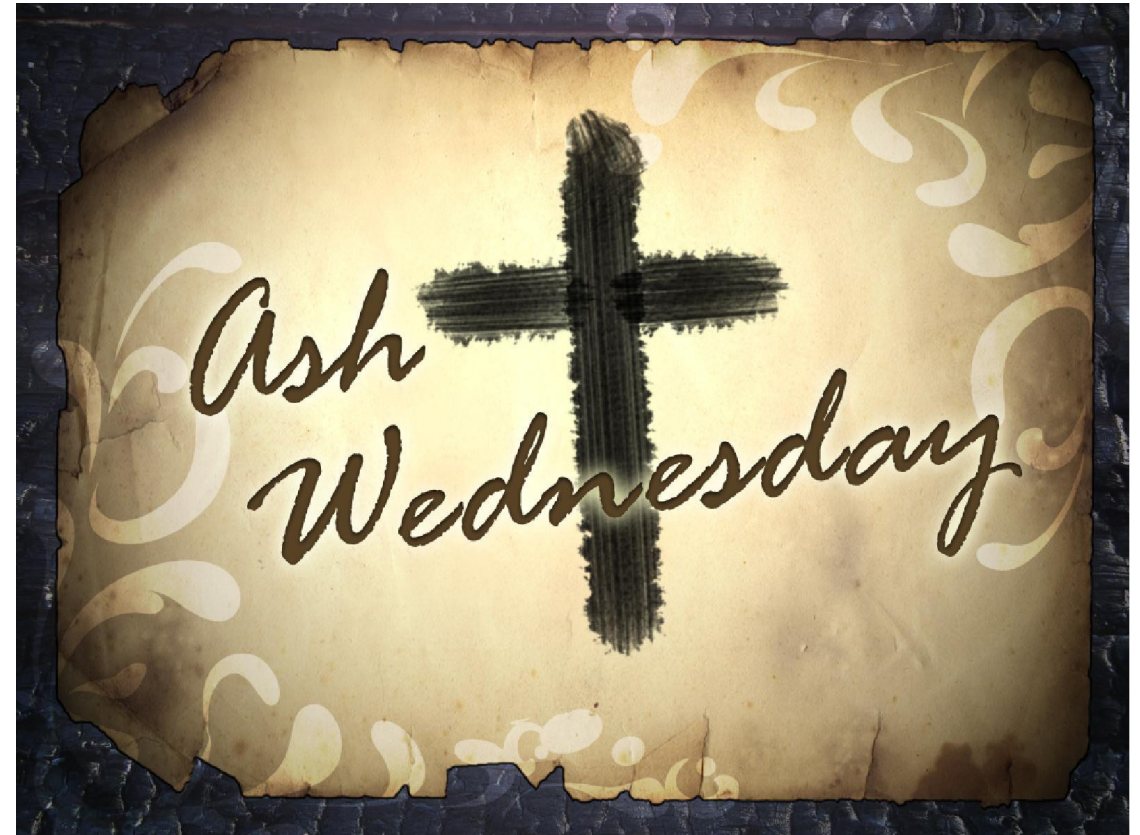
Thank you to **Rick Murphy**, our pianist for this evening's service.

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# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

February 22, 2023 Ash Wednesday



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church  
Bienvenue à La Première Eglise Presbytérienne de Champaign  
Bienvenidos a La Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana

삼페인 제일 장로교회에 오신것을 환영합니다.

Si vous souhaitez que le service soit traduit en français,  
procurez-vous un récepteur et des écouteurs à l'arrière du sanctuaire.

## **Welcome to worship!**

*When you enter the sanctuary, please be mindful of the silent prayers of those around you.*

## **We Gather Together In God's Holy Name**

*God calls us together as "children." Wonderful it is to be so loved! Our natural response is worship.*

### **Prelude**

### **Greeting**

#### **†Call to Worship** (*Psalm 51:10-12, 15*)

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.**  
O Lord, open my lips,  
**and my mouth will declare your praise.**

#### **†Hymn #169** *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind* (vs. 1,2,5)

### **Opening Sentences** (*Psalm 46:1-3*)

### **Scripture**

*Joel 2:1-2,12-13* (OT pg. 846)

*Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21* (NT pg. 5)

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

### **Reflection** *Lord, Help Us To Say No*

*(from Stages on the Way; Lent Meditation 2)*

Matt and Rachel Matthews

## **We Respond to God's Word**

*As God invites us to be disciples of his Son, we prayerfully respond to God with affirmations of faith and acts of self-giving, commitment, and thanksgiving.*

### **Litany of Penitence**

Holy God, we confess to you and to one another that we have sinned, by our own fault, in our thoughts, our words, and our actions.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have not loved you or our neighbors with our whole hearts.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have failed to do justice and to love mercy and to live humbly.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have left many things undone that would bring justice and equality to the human community.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have despoiled the natural world that you created in beauty and rich diversity.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We continually store up possessions as earthly treasure and neglect the true treasure that you offer.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

With honesty, we confess our pride, our envy of others, our anger, our self-indulgence, our contempt for those who differ from us.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

So we begin a journey through the wilderness of Lent with the marks of our human brokenness upon us. Accompany us on the way; forgive us as we stumble; encourage us as we learn the way of discipleship; bring us safely to the cross and the empty tomb.

Restore us to wholeness, and embrace us in your steadfast love.

**Turn to us in your mercy, O God, and redeem us. Amen.**

### **Invitation to Observe a Holy Lent**

### **Imposition of Ashes**

*You are invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes or raise your hand to receive at your seat.*

### **Pastoral Prayer**