

Ash Wednesday ~ 2 March 2022

Gathering Music

Call to Worship:

God calls us away from the tumult of the world,
that we may focus our thoughts on things that are lasting.

**In God's presence we see our lives more clearly;
the broken pieces are put back together.**

God calls us out of loneliness into a life of community.

**Worshiping together, caring about one another,
we find out what it means to be truly human.**

God will send us back into the world's confusion and
busyness, its brokenness and isolation.

**We will go with serenity and joy,
strengthened to be God's servants,
the bearers of peace.**

Hymn ~ What Wondrous Love is This

Hebrew Scripture Lesson - Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Gospel Lesson - Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Message

Special Music: O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go

The Imposition of Ashes

Invitation

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

The early Christians observed with great devotion
the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection,
and it became the custom of the Church that before the
Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of
spiritual preparation. Tonight we enter into this historic and
meaningful season of discipline and reflection.

We come bringing our love, our faith, our penitence.

**We come, ready to receive God's love, forgiveness and
renewal.**

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the
earth.

Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality
and penitence,

so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift
are we given everlasting life;

through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

*Those who desire to receive ashes may now come forward.
The Minister will sign worshipers on the forehead with ashes
saying, "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall
return." Those who do not wish to receive ashes are
encouraged to remain seated, in silent prayer.*

A Time of Silent Reflection

Special Music: You Are Mine

Responsive Prayer (from Presbyterian Outlook)

Lord to whom we belong in life and death, our only comfort,
we come before you aware of our failings and awed by your
grace. **We are dust and to dust we shall return.** The ashes
on our forehead remind us of our frailty, our finitude and our
sin. The shape of the cross they make tell of our Savior
whose sacrifice conquered death, allowing us to sing praises
even on our way to the grave.

As we journey through these 40 Lenten days, may the
relentless gift of the Holy Spirit drive us where we most need
to go to follow Christ more closely. **If we find ourselves in
the wilderness, afraid and tempted, deliver us from evil
and send angels to tend to us. When we doubt and turn
back, fall asleep and deny, forgive us as Christ forgave
those who knew not what they did. If we succumb to our
basest instincts, bullying and taunting any of your**

beloved children, stop us cold, remove the scales from our eyes and make of us new creations in Christ, eager to imitate the One with whom you are well pleased.

Alpha and Omega, our beginning and our end, we need to sense your close and abiding presence this day when we feel keenly how deeply we have grieved you through what we have done and through what we have left undone. **We know that what pleases you is a contrite heart. We know that Jesus came to save sinners. We know that you do not reject a returning prodigal child. We know that through the gift of your Son you have reconciled the world.** On this Ash Wednesday hear our prayers of confession, accept our acts of penitence, forgive us yet again, compel us through the power of your love to forgive others as we have been forgiven. In Christ's name we pray. **Amen.**

Hymn ~ Grace Alone

Benediction

Postlude

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Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service

March 2, 2022



Forked River Presbyterian Church
Lacey United Methodist Church

Pastors:

Rev. Jonathan Campbell
Rev. Dr. Myrlene Hamilton Hess
Rev. Paul Quevedo

Worship Director:
Dawn Slate