

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

PRELUDE

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

THE PURPOSE OF OUR GATHERING

In the Christian tradition the season of Lent (the six weeks preceding Easter, plus the last four days of another week beginning today, Ash Wednesday) is a time to make a special spiritual pilgrimage. It is a time of introspection and self-examination when we probe deeply and respond honestly to how we are getting on with the process of transformation into a new person in Jesus Christ.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Today we begin our Lenten journey

A journey of self-examination that is difficult and often painful.

There is a selfish and sinful heart to face up to.

There is the hardheaded, arrogant mind to deal with.

Lent is a descent into a dark and lonesome valley.

A frightening place.

However, our God walks with us through this lonesome valley.

Hallelujah!

All the while making sure that we know God will never abandon us and will in the end lead us through the darkness and into the light of the eternal kingdom.

Let us praise our God who never abandons us! Who walks with us in the lonesome valley of Lent.

HYMN OF SUFFERING

"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

Hymn 211
All Verses

*Jesus walked this lonesome valley;
He had to walk it by himself.
O, nobody else could walk it for him;
He had to walk it by himself*

*We must walk this lonesome valley;
We have to walk it by ourselves*

*O, nobody else can walk it for us;
We have to walk it by ourselves.*

*You must go and stand your trial;
You have to stand it by yourself.
O, nobody else can stand it for you;
You have to stand it by yourself.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

MEDITATION

*"The Body of Jesus
The Face The Eyes
The Hands The Feet
The Voice*

THE BLESSING OF COMMUNION

I Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

THE BLESSING OF THE ASHES

Gracious God who formed us from the dust of the earth and breathed into us the breath of life, it is by your gift alone that we know life and life eternal. Grant that these ashes, the dust of once joyful palms, may remind us of our mortality and call us again to you. We pray through Christ Jesus. Amen

A MOMENT OF SILENCE

COMING FORWARD FOR THE MARK OF THE CROSS AND HOLY COMMUNION

When the deacon is standing by your pew, please come forward to receive the mark of the cross and the holy communion, and then return to your seat.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT

"Just a Closer Walk With Thee"

Hymn 557
All Verses

*I am weak but Thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.*

Refrain:

*Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

*Through this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.
[Refrain]*

*When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy shore Dear Lord, to Thy shore.
[Refrain]*

BENEDICTION

*And now O God for the next forty days
until Easter, teach us to use these days
wisely.
Teach us to Love
Teach us to Sacrifice
Teach us to Forgive
Teach us to find our lives in You, through
Christ Jesus. Amen.*

POSTLUDE

"O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"

We welcome all our guests who are worshipping with us today at Valley Christian Church. We hope that you find it a meaningful experience and that you will come our way again soon

Ash WEDNESDAY



Dust you are, And to dust you shall return.

GENESIS 3:19 (NIV)