



GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;
to all who mourn and long for comfort;
to all who struggle and desire victory;
to all who sin and need a Savior;
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;
and to all who will come,
this church opens wide her doors
and offers welcome
in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Church Staff & Officers

Brad Wright

Lead Pastor

Kyle Bobos

Associate Pastor

Jaime Jimenez

Assistant Pastor

Caleb McDuffee

Student Ministries

Elders

Brent Allmon

Dan Brink

Jon Green

Rob McIntosh

Mark Moore

Andy Yung

Deacons

Matt Bradshaw

Mark Hill

Scott Johnston

Mike Ryan

Joe Tison

Sunny Yung

Reflections

Ash Wednesday is a reminder that humanity needs a Savior because we are but dust and ashes. We need a Savior because the only person who could save us from death is the one who gave us life in the first place. Jesus Christ, who is Life itself, was our last and our only hope.

— Theresa Aletheia Noble, FSP
Remember Your Death: Memento Mori

There are two moments that matter. One is when you know that your one and only life is absolutely valuable and alive. The other is when you know your life, as presently lived, is entirely pointless and empty. You need both of them to keep you going in the right direction. Lent is about both. The first such moment gives you energy and joy by connecting you with your ultimate Source and Ground. The second gives you limits and boundaries, and a proper humility, so you keep seeking the Source and Ground and not just your small self.

— Richard Rohr
Wondrous Encounters for Lent

There is no way salvation can be absorbed from a Christian environment. There is no such thing as “growth into grace,” because grace would then come as a result of human effort, and the free-gift character of grace would be destroyed. Discipline, study and moral training cannot do the job, because human beings have a rotten root. So long as we look within ourselves for the source of life, we know nothing of Christ. But if we are grafted into Christ, if we are rooted in Christ, then we can grow in grace. But we will never have the power to grow *into* grace as a work of moral reformation.

— C. John Miller
Repentance

Grace Presbyterian Church

March 5, 2025

Ash Wednesday Service

6:00 p.m.

Prelude

Words of Welcome¹

_____ *Praise* _____

Call to Worship

based on John 3:17, Psalm 46:1-3

Minister: God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

People: God's love endures forever.

Minister: God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.

People: God's love endures forever.

¹ As a courtesy, please program all communication devices to silent mode. Thank you!

Song

Jesus I My Cross Have Taken Henry Lyte

Jesus, I my cross have taken,
All to leave and follow Thee.
Destitute, despised, forsaken,
Thou from hence my all shall be.
Perish every fond ambition,
All I've sought or hoped or known.
Yet how rich is my condition!
God and heaven are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me,
They have left my Savior, too.
Human hearts and looks deceive me;
Thou art not, like them, untrue.
O while Thou dost smile upon me,
God of wisdom, love, and might,
Foes may hate and friends disown me,
Show Thy face and all is bright.

Man may trouble and distress me,
'Twill but drive me to Thy breast.
Life with trials hard may press me;
Heaven will bring me sweeter rest.
Oh, 'tis not in grief to harm me
While Thy love is left to me;
Oh, 'twere not in joy to charm me,
Were that joy unmixed with Thee.

Soul, then know thy full salvation
Rise o'er sin and fear and care
Joy to find in every station,
Something still to do or bear.
Think what Spirit dwells within thee,
Think what Father's smiles are thine,
Think that Jesus died to win thee,
Child of heaven, cry out to him.

Confession of Sin

(A brief period of silence is observed between each confession)

Minister: Merciful Lord, please forgive our sins and set us free from them.

Minister: We confess to the sin of pride:

People: We have been sure of our own goodness and importance and have looked down on others. Help us to appreciate the true worth of other people.

Minister: We confess to the sin of envy:

People: We have been displeased when others have been more successful or sought after than we have been. Help us to be glad when others prosper.

Minister: We confess to the sin of anger:

People: We have lost our tempers and nursed grievances. Help us to be patient and understanding with everyone.

Minister: We confess to the sin of self-indulgence:

People: We have had enough and to spare, yet we have neglected the needs of others. Help us to deny ourselves so that others may not be in want.

Minister: We confess to the sin of unchastity:

People: In one way or another we have used sex wrongly. Help us to create and uphold right relations between men and women, inside marriage and outside it.

Minister: We confess to the sin of anxiety:

People: We have worried about many things. Help us to trust you to see us through.

Minister: We confess to the sin of laziness:

People: We have been lukewarm in our faith. Make us eager to do your will.

Song

Jesus, Lover of My Soul *Charles Wesley and Greg Thompson*

Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
Till the storm is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
Receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none,
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee;
Leave, ah! leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me!
All my trust on Thee is stayed,
All my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head
With the shadow of Thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want,
more than all in thee I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy Name,
I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am;
Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound;
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
Freely let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart;
Rise to all eternity.

Scripture Reading

John 5:39-40

You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

Lenten Meditation

Mr. Kyle Bobos

Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline

Prayer

*Minister
& People:*

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

Genesis 3:19

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

Doxology

Thomas Ken & Bob Kauflin

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Concluding Prayer

Minister: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

People: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

Minister: By the cross and passion of our Savior,

People: bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.

Benediction²

based on I Thessalonians 5:23

May the God of peace make you holy in every way and keep your whole being—spirit, soul, and body—free from fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Worship Music

Stephanie Taylor, vocals

Tim Taylor, guitar and vocals

²The benediction is much more than a wish or even a prayer. It is a renewed ordination of the people of God to their service to each other, to their community and the world. God declares his own favor toward his people.

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