

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb Who is the great 'I am';
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be;
And through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And through eternity, I'll sing on.

***INVITATION TO THE BEAUTY FOR ASHES
PRAYER STATIONS***

Prayer Stations- Beauty for Ashes

- Pray before you start and ask God to speak through you during these prayer stations.
- The prayer stations have a general order to the, especially the last three.
- At each station there are scriptures, descriptions, prayer suggestions, and actions to take.
- Take as much time as you need at each station. Some may take a while for you. Others may take only a couple minutes.
- There are chairs at each station, but we can also bring the elements of the station to you if you need.
- When you are done, you are dismissed to leave. Jordan is available to chat and pray. If you need to talk to another person, please do so quietly.



Northminster Presbyterian Church
Ash Wednesday, February 14
2:00 & 6:00 p.m.

Call to Worship - Responsively

Grace and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places. **Thanks be to God.**

Introduction

Brothers and sisters, since early days followers of Christ have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting. By carefully keeping these days, Christians take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord. I invite you, therefore, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

Prayer of the Day Ps. 51:12 Unison

Almighty God, through love you have made us, and for love you call us to repentance. Grant that we who seek to mend our sinful ways may find strength in your compassion and forgiveness. Restore to us the joy of your salvation; give us your Holy Spirit that we may serve you with willing hearts, bearing witness to your abundant mercy in all the world; through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Opening Hymn

“Were You There?”

1. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
2. Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?...
3. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?...
4. Were you there when He rose up from the dead?...

SCRIPTURE Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

Homily- "A Dirty Start to Lent"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Responsively

L: Gracious Lord, ashes remind us of our human frailty and mortality. You are eternal, but we are limited in our days. Someday we will return to dust and ashes. You remind us of this in your Word:

P: Dust we are and to dust we shall return. (Genesis 3:19; Psalm 90:3)

L: Ashes speak of condemnation for sin. When Adam fell into sin, judgment and death came to all. Since we all are born into sin, we are marked for death and ashes.

P: Dust we are and to dust we shall return.

L: Ashes speak of our total dependence upon you, O God. We are but frail human beings who must rely upon you, dear

Father. We think we are capable of taking care of ourselves and make our own plans for greatness. However, so often these plans fail and crumble into ashes.

P: Dust we are and to dust we shall return.

L: Ashes speak of our humiliation and repentance. As people in the Bible humbled themselves and expressed their repentance and mourning in the signs of sackcloth and ashes, we also humble ourselves before you, O God, as we ask you to forgive our sins through Jesus Christ, our lord. As we repent we put on dust and ashes.

P: Dust we are and to dust we shall return.

L: People of God, as we see the meaning of ashes and dust for us as Christians, we now make our earnest confession unto the Lord.

P: Almighty God, you have always warned your people against trusting in false gods. We are sinful and this nature has given birth to sinful deeds: things we have done and things we have left undone. We are but dust and ash of the ground and we deserve nothing more than to return to the dust. Though we deserve your stern judgment, but for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive and renew us. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.