

**Carmel Presbyterian Church
Ash Wednesday Service**

March 2, 2022

12:15 pm



Order of Worship

** Please stand, as able.*

Congregation voices **Bold** responses.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – O Mensch, bewein' dein Sunde gross – J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
("O Man, bemoan thy grievous sin")

*** Call to Worship (Responsive; Matthew 6:19-21)**

We come to worship God as the Lenten season begins, aware of our frailty and our failings.

We come seeking God's mercy, acknowledging our mortality.

Having received the waters of baptism, we are marked now with ashes.

The treasures of this earth do not last; our treasure is in heaven, our heart's true home.

Prayer of the Day

God of our salvation, we long to be reconciled to you.

Help us to clear away any obstacle that prevents us from accepting the grace of Christ.

No matter what we face in this life, increase in us knowledge and patience, kindness and holiness of spirit, genuine love and truthful speech, so that, by the power of God at work in us, we may live even as we are dying and rejoice even in our sorrows.

Though it may seem that we have nothing, if we are reconciled to you, we possess everything, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*** Hymn No. 92 – Beneath the Cross of Jesus – ST. CHRISTOPHER**

Call to Confession (Seated)

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us. We have many treasures on earth that we hold too dearly; that we withhold from others in need. When we sin against neighbor, condone injustice, and quarrel with one another, we sin against you. Forgive us, we pray, for we are broken in spirit. Do not see us for our faults, and do not go away from us. Keep us always in your presence so that we may be restored to the joy of your salvation. Sustain in us a willing spirit to treasure what you desire; then our hearts will be opened in joy and gladness. In Jesus Christ, our Treasure, we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

According to God's steadfast love, according to God's abundant mercy, God does not pass judgment on us the judgment we deserve.

God creates in us clean hearts and gives a new and right spirit.

In the grace of Jesus Christ, we return to God forgiven.

Praise God for our salvation!

Prayer for the Imposition of Ashes

*** *Marking with Ashes***

(All are invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes on their foreheads or hand; the one imposing ash, says the first words from Genesis 32:19; and, the congregant may respond with the words printed in bold. Come forward via the Center Aisle, returning via Side Aisles.)

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

In life and in death, I belong to God.

Impositions of Ashes

"Savior, When in Dust to You" – Gerald Near

"Jesus, Lover of My Soul" – (Hymn tune: Aberystwyth)

Prayer for Illumination

Dedication (Responsive)

Let us offer ourselves as a symbol of our appreciation for receiving the mark of God's love in such beautiful and meaningful ways.

We have been given the mark of God's love; may we always freely give ourselves in service to God in return!

(All) Creator God, may the lives we rededicate and offer to you today be of use to share your love with all – in our church, our community, and your world. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

(Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.)

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

*** Hymn No. 372 –**

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

LORD, I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

*** Charge and Benediction**

*** Postlude –**

"Lenten Prelude"

Andrew Fletcher

(Following the Postlude, all quietly depart.)