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*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

David J. Wilcher
Lead Pastor

Kyle Bobos
Children's Ministries

Elders
*Dan Brink
Jon Green
Mark Moore
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*Matt Bradshaw
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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

Whenever God does something new, he involves people - often unlikely people, frequently surprised and alarmed people. He asks them to trust him in a new way, to put aside their natural reactions, to listen humbly for a fresh word and to act on it without knowing exactly how it's going to work out. That's what he's asking all of us to do this Lent.

— Tom Wright
Lent for Everyone: Matthew

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 6, 2019

Ash Wednesday Service

6:30 p.m.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Preparation for Worship¹

Praise

Call to Worship

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

Leader: 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.

Leader: 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

Psalm 130

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

Song

Psalm 51

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 58:1-12

- 1 "Shout it aloud, do not hold back.
Raise your voice like a trumpet.
Declare to my people their rebellion
and to the house of Jacob their sins.
- 2 For day after day they seek me out;
they seem eager to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that does what is right
and has not forsaken the commands of its God.
They ask me for just decisions
and seem eager for God to come near them.
- 3 'Why have we fasted,' they say,
'and you have not seen it?
Why have we humbled ourselves,
and you have not noticed?'
"Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please
and exploit all your workers.
- 4 Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife,
and in striking each other with wicked fists.
You cannot fast as you do today
and expect your voice to be heard on high.

- 5 Is this the kind of fast I have chosen,
only a day for people to humble themselves?
Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed
and for lying in sackcloth and ashes?
Is that what you call a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?
- 6 "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?
- 7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter —
when you see the naked, to clothe them,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?
- 8 Then your light will break forth like the dawn,
and your healing will quickly appear;
then your righteousness will go before you,
and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.
- 9 Then you will call, and the LORD will answer;
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.
"If you do away with the yoke of oppression,
with the pointing finger and malicious talk,
- 10 and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,
then your light will rise in the darkness,
and your night will become like the noonday.
- 11 The LORD will guide you always;
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land
and will strengthen your frame.
You will be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring whose waters never fail.
- 12 Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins
and will raise up the age-old foundations;
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

Confession of Sin

The Seven Deadly Sins

(A brief period silence is observed between each confession)

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

Leader: 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.*

Leader: 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.*

Leader: We confess the sin of *anger*:

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

Leader: 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.*

Leader: 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.*

Leader: We confess to the sin of *anxiety*:

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

Leader: We confess to the sin of *laziness*:

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

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.

Concluding Prayer

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

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

Leader: By the cross and passion of our Savior,

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

Song

Jesus, Lover of my Soul

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.

² The 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.