

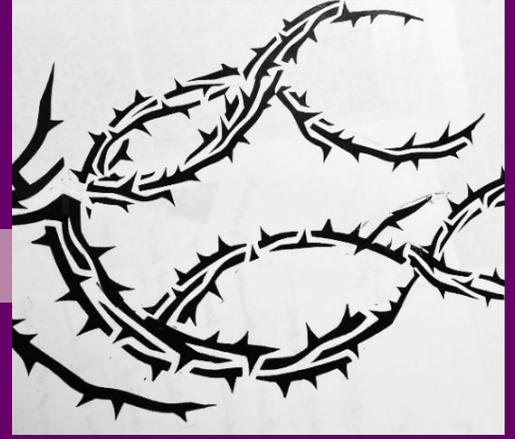


WEBSTER GROVES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

45 West Lockwood Ave. ♦ Webster Groves, MO 63119
314-962-9210 ♦ wgpc.org

Ash Wednesday ♦ February 22, 2023 ♦ 7:00 p.m.

Our Mission:
We seek to live Christ's love, welcome all people,
and joyfully serve God.



As the music begins, let us use this time for quiet reflection and prayer, so that we, individually and as a great crowd of witnesses, may prepare ourselves to reaffirm our faith as the people of God.

✦ *When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.*

Gathering for God's Word

PRELUDE

Meditation on "Passion Chorale"
Shawn Portell, organ

David Bednall

WELCOME

OPENING SENTENCES

Rev. Ed Zumwinkel

L: God sent Christ into the world
not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.

P: God's love endures forever.

L: God is our refuge and strength,
a present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear
though the earth should change,
through the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
through the waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

P: God's love endures forever.

INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

L: Beloved people of God:
every year at the time of the Christian Passover
we celebrate our redemption
through the death and resurrection
of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Continued >>*

L: Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration

and to renew our life in the paschal mystery.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance,
and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes.

This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life,
and marks the penitence of this community.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent
by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting,
by works of love, and by meditating on God's word.

Now let us bow before God, our creator and redeemer, and confess our sin.

SILENCE

A time of silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Proclaiming God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

L: Merciful God

Your word is our way of truth and life.

Create in us hearts that are clean
and put your Holy Spirit within us,
so that we may receive your grace
and declare your praise forever;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Pew Bible pgs. 5-6

¹“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. *Continued >>*

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when

you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

SERMON

Rev. Ed Zumwinkel

PSALM 51:1-17

David Clark Isele

Sing refrain at the hand motion of the cantor.

Refrain:

The sac - ri - fice You ac - cept, O God, is a hum - ble spir - it.

L: ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**P: ²Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin. (*refrain*)**

L: ³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

**P: ⁴Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak
and right in your judgment.**

L: ⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

**P: ⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within. (*refrain*)**

L: ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**P: ⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice. *Continued >>***

L: ⁹Hide your face from my sins, and
blot out all my wickedness.

P: ¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me. (refrain)**

L: ¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

P: ¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

L: ¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.

P: ¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness. (refrain)**

L: ¹⁵O LORD, open my lips,
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

P: ¹⁶**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

L&P: ¹⁷**The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise. (refrain)**

LITANY OF PENITENCE

L: Holy and merciful God,
we confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness.
For the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

P: have mercy on us, O God. Continued >>

L: For our self-indulgent appetites and ways
and our exploitation of other people,

P: have mercy on us, O God.

L: For our anger at our own frustration
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

P: have mercy on us, O God.

L: For our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

P: have mercy on us, O God.

L: For our negligence in prayer and worship,
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

P: have mercy on us, O God.

L: Accept our repentance, O God,
for the wrongs we have done.
For our neglect of human need and suffering
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

P: have mercy on us, O God.

L: For all false judgments,
For uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,
and for our prejudice and contempt
toward those who differ from us,

P: have mercy on us, O God.

L: For our waste and pollution of your creation
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

P: have mercy on us, O God.

L: Restore us, O God of our salvation,
and show us your steadfast love.

P: Turn to us in your mercy and redeem us.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Rev. Ed Zumwinkel

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

ANTHEM

Arioso on “Herzliebster Jesu”
Shawn Portell, organ

David Blackwell

Responding to God’s Word

Sacrament of Holy Communion

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

L: Blessed are those who hunger
and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: It is truly right and our greatest joy
to give you thanks and praise,
eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe.

You are our God,
and we are the creatures of your hand.
You made us from the dust of the earth,
breathed into us the breath of life,
and set us in your world to love and serve you.
When we rejected your love and ignored your wisdom,
you did not reject us.
You loved us still and called us to turn again to you
in obedience and in love.

L: Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with the heavenly choirs
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name: *Continued >>*

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly

Lord, God of hosts. Heav-en and earth are

full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high -

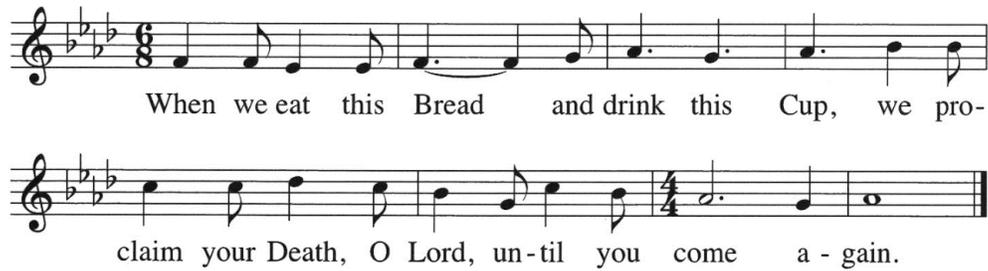
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

L: You are holy, O God of majesty,
 and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
 Out of your great love for the world,
 you sent Jesus among us
 to set us free from the tyranny of evil.
 He lived as one of us,
 sharing our joys and sorrows.
 By his dying and rising,
 he releases us from bondage to sin
 and frees us from the dominion of death.

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts,
 we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us,
 and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ.
 Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
 as a living and holy offering of ourselves,
 that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.



When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we pro-
claim your Death, O Lord, un-til you come a - gain.

L: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,
that the bread we break and the cup we bless
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ
and with all who are baptized in his name,
that we may be one in ministry in every place.
As this bread is Christ's body for us,
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Lead us, O God, by the power of your Spirit
to live as the Lord requires:
to do justice, to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with you, our God.
Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus Christ
until this mortal life is ended,
and all that is earthly returns to dust.
Give us strength to serve you faithfully
until the promised day of resurrection,
when, with the redeemed of all the ages,
we will feast with you at your table in glory.
Through Christ,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
with the Holy Spirit in the holy church,
now and forever.

AMEN

Sally Ann Morris



A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

L: We remember with thanksgiving our Lord's Passover meal,
shared with his closest of friends,
in which he took the bread and blessed it,
broke it open, and gave it to them, saying:
This is my body.
Take and eat it, remembering me.

We remember how he took a cup, saying:
This is the new covenant in my blood.
Drink it, all of you, and remember me.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Meditation on "Promise"
Shawn Portell, organ

Brenda Portman

CONCLUDING PRAYER

L: God of compassion,
through your Son Jesus Christ
you reconciled your people to yourself.
Following his example of prayer and fasting,
may we obey you with willing hearts
and serve one another in holy love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending

HYMN #250

"In the Bulb There is a Flower"
(see music in back of bulletin)

PROMISE

✠ BLESSING

Rev. Ed Zumwinkel

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

✠ CHARGE

L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

You are invited to stay during the postlude for a final moment of reflection.

POSTLUDE

“Ah Holy Jesus”
Shawn Portell, organ

Johannes Brahms

About the Lenten Liturgical Art

As we begin our Lenten journey we are reminded of the personal suffering and global disasters surrounding us. As we think about ministering to these needs, we are reminded that God uses suffering to refine our character. What better time than Lent to reflect upon our own hardships and the hardships of others in light of Christ’s work on the cross?

We think back to the Garden of Eden and God’s beautiful and perfect creation. We think of humanity’s disobedience, which brought down God’s wrath: “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you and you will eat the plants of the field” (Gen. 3:17-18).

In the fullness of time, those thorns, symbolizing our sinfulness and the hardships of our lives, would be woven into a crown worn by God’s Son so that we might receive the crown of glory through salvation. The realization of salvation is revealed on Easter Sunday when the thorns begin to flower and bloom with new life, new growth that sustains us through the thorns of our journey.

Welcome to WGPC

- **FRIENDSHIP PADS:** Please sign the friendship pads located at the end of each pew.
- **CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN WORSHIP:** The nursery (designed for children from newborn through three) is open from 8:30-11:45 a.m. But if you need to step out of the Sanctuary, the new Gathering Spot (formerly the front office) will be open with a comfy place to relax with toys, books, coffee, and a live-stream of the worship service.
- **COMMUNION:** Everyone is invited to participate in Communion including children and the unbaptized.
- **ASSISTIVE DEVICES:** Hearing devices, large print hymnals, and cushions are available. One of our ushers will be happy to assist you.
- **WELCOME BAGS:** If you are a visitor or know someone who might be interested in WGPC, please pick up a red welcome bag at our Welcome Station in the main hallway or at the church entrances.

Those Who Serve Today

Ushers: Donna Bellows and Vicki Lane

Tech Team: Lia Fairbanks, Tom McNeely, Rob Meyer, Spencer Roudebush, Joey Stokes, and Dennis Wacker



Online Worship: Our worship services are live-streamed and video recorded for viewing on our website (wgpc.org) and YouTube pages. Children's participation in the Scripture Conversation indicates implied parental consent to be recorded.

Resources: Some prayers and liturgical texts for worship are provided by: Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1 © 2012; Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2 © 2018; Westminster John Knox Press from Book of Common Worship © 2018

Ministry Staff

314-962-9210

Pastor: Rev. Edwin Zumwinkel, III (ext. 3201), efz@wgpc.org

Theologian in Residence: Rev. Dr. Susan Andrews (c) 914-815-6507, sra@wgpc.org

Parish Associate: Rev. Jim Poinsett (c) 703-587-5003, jamespoinsett@gmail.com

Pastoral Assistant: John Rawlings (ext. 3203), jdrtsn@gmail.com

Student Pastor: Matt Miller (c) 314-591-5838, Mattmiller.ovd@gmail.com

Director of Music Ministries: Shawn Portell (ext. 3211), spp@wgpc.org

Mission Outreach: Beth Kazlauskas (ext. 3208), bok@wgpc.org

Business Administrator: Jan Scheurer (ext. 3206), jls@wgpc.org

Director of Welcome and Involvement: Michelle Lepak (ext. 3102), mml@wgpc.org

Assistant Administrator: Joyce Kimmons (ext. 3203), jlk@wgpc.org

Senior Staff Assistant: Barbara Fischer (ext. 3202), baf@wgpc.org

Administrative Assistant: Barb Gaugh (ext. 3210), bag@wgpc.org

Administrative Assistant: Marilyn Soucek (ext. 3204), mks@wgpc.org

Educational Ministries/Digital Communications: Cherstin Byers (ext. 3205), chb@wgpc.org

Nursery Caretaker: Anna Stokes

Custodians: (ext. 3212)

Pete Brennan (Supervisor) pjb@wgpc.org
Pierre Campbell
Ken Kastner

In the Bulb There Is a Flower 250

Hymn of Promise

Capo 3: (D) (Em)
F Gm

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7) (D)
C7 F

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7) (G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (F#) (Bm)
F7 B^b Gm F Dm Gm A Dm

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)
B^b Gm F Dm Gm C7 F

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning."
Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.