

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

7:00 P.M.

ASH WEDNESDAY

GATHERING

PRELUDE "Prelude on 'Cleansing Fountain'" D. PAXTON

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Welcome to a season of self-examination;
this is a time for reconciliation with God and neighbor.

All: **Welcome together, elders and children, to meet God,
longing for the abundant mercy of our Creator.**

Leader: Seek to know God's presence here and everywhere;
let the wisdom of God guide you in truth.

All: **Through hardship, affliction, and calamity,
we reach for the power of God to steady us.**

Leader: Prepare yourselves for a period of testing.
Be open to the grace that enables your growth.

All: **With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning,
we seek the steadfast love of God.**

*INVOCATION

*HYMN NO. 51 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" CWM RHONDDA

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Help us, awesome God, to be honest with ourselves and with you. We want to change our wasteful, destructive ways. We want to be rid of the evil that weighs us down, the guilt that crushes our spirits. Have mercy on us as we remember and confess our sin in these moments of silent struggle. Purge us of all the garbage from our past. Wash us in the flowing streams of your forgiving love. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and fill our lives with a new and right spirit. Sustain our hearts day by day in renewed focus on your steadfast love... *(Our prayer continues in silence).* Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

HEARING THE WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON Rev. Nicole Lock

ANTHEM "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" THOMAS WILLIAMS
Donna Carter-Wood, soloist

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

SERMON "I'm Sorry, But ..." Rev. Scott Huie

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

LITANY OF PENITENCE

Leader: We are dust, and to dust we shall return.

Men: **Have mercy on us, O God –**

Women: **according to your steadfast love; according to your mercy –**

Men: **blot out our transgressions.**

Leader: We are dust –

Men: **Finite and fixed, human, incomplete, fixed to this earthly home.**

Women: **Breathe life into our lungs of clay; let us sing your heavenly praise.**

Leader: We are wounded.

Men: **Broken and battered, guilty, spoiled, veiled by the shadows of sin.**

Women: **Wash our wounds, cleanse our hearts, bind up our brokenness.**

Men: **You have the power to do it, and the love to desire it.**

Leader: We cry for help –

Men: **Desperate and distressed, aimless, anxious in our own limitations.**

Women: **Make us radiant with your love, confident in your goodness.**

Men: **We are hands and feet for a lonely world.**

Leader: We are voice and song for a silent world.

Women: **We are heart and gift for a needy world.**

Leader: All through Christ ...

Women: **Only through Christ ...**

Men: **Even through Christ.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

SOLO

"Psalm 51"

DAVID CLARK ISELE

Donna Carter-Wood, soloist

Congregational response is: "The sacrifice You accept, O God, is a humble spirit."

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 204 "Rock of Ages" TOPLADY

*BENEDICTION *(please depart in silence)*

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