

# REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Mission Church of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
www.rpcerie.org

## The Beginning of Lent Ash Wednesday Service

March 1, 2017

Worship Theme: *“For the next 40 days, from today through Palm Sunday, we open our hearts to the Holy Spirit and invite Him to lead us to a deeper sense of Christ’s divine Presence in our lives”*

**Gathering Music:** *Savior, When in Dust to You*.....arr. Manz  
Shirley W. Wilson, Organist/Pianist

**Welcome and Introduction**..... Robert LeSuer

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 4:1-17 ..... Robert LeSuer

**Prelude:** *Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty* .....arr. Hopson

**Call to Worship:** (responsively) ..... Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: Now is the moment of grace. This is the hour of blessing

**Congregation: Today is the day of salvation. Here is the path to new life.**

**\*Hymn No. 345:** *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*.....REST

**Reading:** An excerpt from *The Imitation of Christ*  
by Thomas a Kempis..... Thomas Brooks

**Prayers of Confession**..... Thomas Brooks

We will begin by praying silently, confessing our personal sins.  
Then, we will join in an antiphonal prayer of corporate confession.

(Please note that “Left Side” and “Right Side” are determined as you face the chancel from the congregation.)

Left side: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Right Side: *Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.*

Left Side: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

Right Side: *Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.*

Left Side: Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Right Side: *Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.*

Left Side: Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

Right Side: *Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.*

Left Side: Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

Right Side: *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

Left Side: Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

Right Side: *Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*

Left Side: Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.

Right Side: *Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.*

Left Side: Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.

Right Side: *You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.*

**Together: My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart that you, God, will not despise.**

—adapted from Psalm 51: 1-17, NIV

**Assurance of Pardon** (*unison*)..... Thomas Brooks

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.** —John 3:16, NIV

**In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.** —1 John:4:10 NIV

**Reading:** An Excerpt from *The Passion of Jesus Christ* by John Piper..... Lisa Gordon

**Imposition of Ashes**

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

**\*Benediction** (*unison*) ..... Thomas Brooks

**May the God who has given us forgiveness, grace and peace, through His Son, Jesus the Christ, be with us now and until we meet again. Amen.**

*At the conclusion of the Benediction, the Congregation is dismissed.*

**Postlude:** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*..... arr. Hustad

*\* Congregation please stand, if you are able to do so.*

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**Nursery Available**

We offer Nursery Care during our Worship Service. You will find the caregivers in the Joyce Parlor.



**The Season of Lent**

The Lenten season is a time when many Christians observe a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, self-denial, and spiritual discipline. The purpose is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ—His suffering and His sacrifice, His life, death, burial, and resurrection.

It is a time when, through the study of Scripture and prayer, many believers experience an accelerated spiritual growth. By focusing on Jesus and what He means to those of us who belong to Him, Lent gives us a unique opportunity to draw closer to the God who loves us with His everlasting love.

**When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**

*by Isaac Watts*

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.