

Leader: Our negligence in prayer & worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

People: *We confess to you, Lord.*

Leader: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

People: *Accept our repentance, Lord.*

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

People: *Accept our repentance, Lord.*

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

People: *Accept our repentance, Lord.*

Leader: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

People: *Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.*

Leader: Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

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

Leader: By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

People: *Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.*

Concluding Hymn | Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Words by Elizabeth Clephane, 1872; music by Christopher Miner, 1997

*Beneath the cross of Jesus, I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty Rock within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noon-tide heat and the burden of the day.*

*Upon the cross of Jesus, mine eye at times can see,
The very dying form of One who suffered there for me:
And from my stricken heart with tears, two wonders I confess,
The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.*

*I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place:
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss;
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.*

Benediction

Leader: May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit, give you a contrite heart. May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree, heal you by his wounds.

May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth, speak to you words of pardon and peace.

People: *Amen.*



Redeemer Presbyterian Church

A Service of Ashes

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Leader: Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Opening Hymn | Man of Sorrows

Words and music by Philip P. Bliss, 1875

*Man of Sorrows! what a name for the Son of God, who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim: Hallelujah! what a Savior!*

*Bearing shame and scoffing rude, in my place condemned he stood,
Sealed my pardon with his blood: Hallelujah! what a Savior!*

*Guilty, vile, and helpless, we; spotless Lamb of God was he;
Full atonement! can it be? Hallelujah! what a Savior!*

*Lifted up was he to die, "It is finished!" was his cry:
Now in heav'n exalted high: Hallelujah! what a Savior!*

*When he comes, our glorious King, all his ransomed home to bring,
Then anew this song we'll sing: Hallelujah! what a Savior!*

Old Testament Reading | Joel 2.1-2, 12-17

Gospel Reading | Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

Have Mercy

Words and Music by Sandra McCracken, 2015

*Have mercy on me, Have mercy on me.
Oh God, have mercy, Oh God, have mercy!*

*Oh help my unbelief, Oh help my unbelief.
Oh God, have mercy, Oh God, have mercy!*

Homily

Rev. Benjamin Wheeler

The Imposition of Ashes

Leader: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us 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.

If you wish to receive ashes, then please make your way forward.

Psalm Reading | Psalm 103

Bless the LORD, O my soul, * and all that is within me, bless his holy name!
Bless the LORD, O my soul, * and forget not all his benefits,
who forgives all your iniquity, * who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit, * who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good * so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The LORD works righteousness * and justice for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses, * his acts to the people of Israel.
The LORD is merciful and gracious, * slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He will not always chide, * nor will he keep his anger forever.

He does not deal with us according to our sins, * nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth, * so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west, * so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
As a father shows compassion to his children * so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.
For he knows our frame; * he remembers that we are dust.

As for man, his days are like grass; * he flourishes like a flower of the field;
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, * and its place knows it no more.
But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, * and his righteousness to children's children,
to those who keep his covenant * and remember to do his commandments.
The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, * and his kingdom rules over all.

Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, * obeying the voice of his word!
Bless the LORD, all his hosts, * his ministers, who do his will!
Bless the LORD, all his works, * in all places of his dominion.
Bless the LORD, O my soul!

Litany of Penitence

Everyone: *Most holy and merciful Father: 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.*

Leader: 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.

People: *Have mercy on us, Lord.*

Leader: We have been deaf 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.

People: *Have mercy on us, Lord.*

Leader: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

People: *We confess to you, Lord.*

Leader: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

People: *We confess to you, Lord.*

Leader: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

People: *We confess to you, Lord.*

Leader: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

People: *We confess to you, Lord.*