

SERVICE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

February 17, 2010

7:00 PM

Ash Wednesday begins the Lenten 40 day period of preparation before Easter. The beginnings of Ash Wednesday lie in obscurity in the early church. There is record of it in the fifth century, and the meaning of it was derived from the use of ashes, an Old Testament symbol of penitence (recognition and repentance of sins). The imposition of ashes on the forehead of worshippers is based on Genesis 3:10: "Remember, that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The use of ashes is a recognition that we are sinful creatures of the created world, dependent on God's grace and power. Ash Wednesday signals the beginning of a time dedicated to prayer, reflection, penitence and hope, as we await the grace and power of God in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

PRELUDE "Change My Heart, O God" Mark Hayes

WELCOME

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP "Calvary" Spiritual
The words may be found in verse 1 of Hymn #96.

CALL TO WORSHIP John 3:16-17, Psalms 46:1-3

LEADER: For God so loved the world that God gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.

PEOPLE: **God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.**

LEADER: God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble.

PEOPLE: **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,**

LEADER: Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

PEOPLE: **Though the waters roar and foam,**

LEADER: Though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

ALL: **God's love endures forever.**

*SONG (insert) "Have Mercy, God" David Gambrell

PSALM READING Psalm 51:1-12 (p. 502)

*SONG (insert) "God, Be Merciful to Me" Christopher Miner

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 58:1-9a (p. 650)

ANTHEM "Where Shall I Go from Your Spirit?" Kenney Potter

Where shall I go from your spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there, and if I lie down in the depths, you are there. And if I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I go to the ends of the earth, even there you will guide me. Your hand will hold me fast. Wherever I may be, you are there. (From Psalm 139)

*GOSPEL READING Mark 6:1-6a

ANTHEM "Out of the Depths" Ruth Duck & Robert Batastini

Out of the depths, O God, we call to you. Wounds of the past remain, affecting all we do. Facing our lives, we need your love so much. Here in this community, heal us by your touch. God of the loving heart, we praise your name. Dance through our lives and loves; anoint with Spirit flame. Your light illumines each familiar face. Here in this community, meet us with your grace.

LENTEN OBSERVANCE OF ASHES

Invitation and Instructions

Prayer of Penitence (see insert)

Imposition of Ashes

(Anyone who so desires may come forward, receive the imposition of ashes, and kneel in prayer, if able and also desired.)

PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYER

*HYMN (insert) "Seek Peace With God" David Gambrell

***BENEDICTION**

*(Worshippers are asked to quietly leave the sanctuary at the conclusion of the
Benediction.)*

***POSTLUDE**

“Interlude III”

Mark Hayes

(The two hymns for Ash Wednesday, written by David Gambrell, are used with permission from Mr. Gambrell.)

Special thanks to:

Brenda Hall for providing nursery care;

Ina Frazier for supplying our palm ashes;

Our Sanctuary Choir, Terry Leonard, and P. J. Nespor for supplying our special music.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SHARON

600 East State Street, Sharon PA 16146

724-981-2211

www.1stpcs.org

Rev. Dr. Glenn Hink, Senior Pastor

Rev. Pam Maloney, Associate Pastor

Aaron Christy, Dir. of Youth Ministry

Debra Derrenbacher, Dir. of Children's Ministries

“Real people, committed to Christ, living the Great Commandment.”