



PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 14, 2024

Ash Wednesday Service

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in the dimness of evening

to be with the God who brightens the shadows of our lives.

We gather in the quiet of this place,

to be with Jesus, knowing that nothing past, present, or future separates us.

We gather to be marked as disciples,

to be fed for the journey through Lent, to be sealed by the Spirit as God's own.

*OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN *"Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days"* # 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We have trouble telling the truth, God of broken hearts, yet we must admit on this night how we have trouble being your people. We may not trample the poor, but we sometimes walk right past them. We don't receive bribes, but we are more privileged than many around us. We trust more in ourselves than in you and spend far too much time patting ourselves on the back, rather than holding out a hand to others. Where can we go for forgiveness but to you, God of the ashes? When we are greedy, you promise to be gracious. When we have trouble confronting injustice, you stand at our side. When we struggle to seek good, you point us to Jesus, our Brother, our Savior, who shows us how to turn our back on evil to follow him. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

SERMON "Public Piety"

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENT

THANKSGIVING OVER ASHES

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**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

PRAYER

CHARGE & BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

* Please stand if you are able.