

Ash Wednesday

7:00 PM

February 14th, 2024

¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:16-20

Enter in Silence

Debbe Picerno

Introduction to Ash Wednesday

CALL TO WORSHIP- 2 Corinthians 5:16-20

L: In the midst of darkness we have come.

P: Heal us, Lord Jesus.

Just As I Am verse 1

L: Save us from the darkness of our souls.

P: Save us, Lord Jesus.

Just As I Am verse 2

L: Let us follow you and obey your commands

P: Direct and guide us, Lord Jesus.

Just As I Am verse 3

L: Brighten our lives and lift our spirits.

P: Bring us to your glorious presence, Lord Jesus.

Just As I Am verse 4

SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

*HYMN

“O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”

No. 352

CONFESSION

(Sung Response after each section chorus of hymn #305 Jesus Paid It All)

Lord, we confess our sins before you. We confess that we have fallen short of your glory and your intent for our lives. Open our eyes that we may see ourselves with clarity and truthfulness, that we may have eyes to see all of that within us that is not pleasing to you. (Silent Prayer)

*Jesus paid it all;
All to him I owe.
Sin had left a crimson stain;
He washed it white as snow.*

Lord, we confess to you that we have not loved as we ought. We have been impatient with others with whom we could have been patient. We have disregarded those you have called us to serve. We have chosen the selfish way when you have called us to selflessness. (Silent Prayer)

*Jesus paid it all;
All to him I owe.
Sin had left a crimson stain;
He washed it white as snow.*

Lord, we confess that we have not tended to the care of our souls. We have been too busy to pray. We have been too quick to speak and too slow to listen for you. We have filled our lives with all kinds of noise instead of patiently waiting like sheep for our shepherd's voice. (Silent Prayer)

*Jesus paid it all;
All to him I owe.
Sin had left a crimson stain;
He washed it white as snow.*

Lord, we confess our need of you. We need your grace. We need your patience. We need your guidance. We cannot see beyond the moment. We cannot worship you as we ought. As we begin this solemn journey toward the cross, we call upon your mercy and your love for our salvation. (Silent Prayer)

*Jesus paid it all;
All to him I owe.
Sin had left a crimson stain;
He washed it white as snow.*

ANTHEM

“Healer of My Heart”

Choir

MEDITATION

“Neither Do I”

Joel 2:12-14

*HYMN

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

No. 324

RESPONSIVE READING – Adapted from Psalm 51

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

P: Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

L: Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;

P: so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

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

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

L: Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;

P: wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

L: Let me hear joy and gladness;

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

L: Create in me a pure heart, O God,

P: and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

L: Do not cast me from your presence

P: or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

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

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

ALL: My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart

*HYMN

“How Deep the Father’s Love”

PRAYER AND SILENT REFLECTION

**There will be no dismissal. Once you have completed your reflection, please exit the sanctuary quietly and respectfully.*

Meridian Presbyterian Church

www.meridianpres.org

724-482-2630



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“Neither Do I”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Franklin