

# Ash Wednesday



RELIGION  
GONE WRONG

FEBRUARY 14, 2024  
6:30 P.M.

SENIOR PASTOR  
DR. MIKE GARRETT

# Service of Divine Worship

6:30 p.m. | February 14, 2024

## Prelude

"Meditation on 'Beach Spring'"  
Dr. Marcia Mervin, organ

Hal H. Hopson

## Choral Call to Worship, #422 "Create in Me A Clean Heart" CREATE IN ME

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me  
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

## Prayer of Invocation

Leader: O Lord, open my lips,

**All: and my mouth will declare your praise.**

Leader: You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it.

**All: You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.**

Leader: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

**All: a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. Amen.**

## Hymn #415

"Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy"

RESTORATION

## Prayer of Confession

Leader: Sovereign Lord, we come before you now without pretense or excuse. You see all our actions and know all our inward thoughts. We are laid bare before you. We have sinned against you, and we plead for your forgiveness. Have mercy on us.

**All: We have tried to find our own way instead of following the paths you laid out for us. We have arrogantly thought ourselves better than our neighbors. Have mercy on us.**

Leader: Sovereign Lord, we come to you now, humbled and broken. We ask for your forgiveness through the name of Jesus; we ask for your mercy through the blood of Christ.

**All: As we receive such grace from you, teach us anew the paths of righteousness. Create in us a clean heart that we might follow you in your holiness. Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

## Response #434

"Restore in Us, O God"

BAYLOR

*Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love;  
renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.*

## Anthem

"Turn Thy Face From My Sins"  
The Celebration Choir  
Alice Ann Campbell, accompanist

Arthur Sullivan

## Reading of God's Word

Isaiah 58:1-14

## Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

### Thanksgiving Over the Ashes

#### Imposition of Ashes, #433

"Sign Us With Ashes"

PHOENIX

Led by The Celebration Choir

The congregation is invited to join in the refrain.

*Refrain:*

*Sign us with ashes, merciful God,*

*Children of dust, as to dust we return.*

*Sign us with ashes, merciful God.*

*Mark us, make us your own.*

### Benediction

#### Benediction Response, #438

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

TOPLADY

*Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.*

*Let the water and the blood from thy wounded side which flowed  
be of sin the double cure, cleanse from guilt and make me pure.*

### Postlude

"Mercy 'La Grace"

G.P. Telemann, arr. Hopson

Dr. Marcia Mervin, organist

## Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday begins the 40-day period of fasting and renewal the church calls Lent. It is inspired by Christ's 40 days of fasting in the wilderness (Matthew 4:2) at the beginning of his public ministry. The Sundays in Lent are not included in the 40 days and are considered "celebration breaks" during the long time of preparation for the monumental events of Good Friday and Easter.

In Scripture, ashes serve both as a symbol of mortality and as a sign of mourning and repentance. But neither sin nor death is the final word. Believers leave the service with this confidence and gratitude: Christ has conquered sin and death. Nothing can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lent begins like a bare branch in winter. Just as the bare branch has been stripped of its glory, so Jesus had to surrender his glory and die for the sins of all before his Easter victory over death. It is in the stripping that we discover the mission of his life and the truth about our own. His pattern of dying, and rising, is meant for us as well. Lent is the 40-day season of repentance when we seek to die to all that is not of Christ, so that we can rise again to the glory of all that is.

## Giving & Tithes

Contributions help us continue our ministry and mission to serve Christ and share His gospel through meaningful worship, loving fellowship, spiritual growth, and compassionate outreach. Scan the code to the right to make a financial contribution -or- visit <http://www.firstprez.com/give/>.



SCAN ME

# A GREAT FAMILY EVENT!

# Rise

## AGAINST HUNGER

food • community • sustainability

# HELP US GET CLOSER TO 1 MILLION MEALS!

## SATURDAY, MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup>

MISSION CONFERENCE KICK OFF AT 8:30AM IN THE SANCTUARY.  
MEAL PACKING BEGINS AT 9AM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL.



SCAN ME

Volunteers must register for RAH. Scan the QR Code or visit [bit.ly/RAHMarch2024](http://bit.ly/RAHMarch2024) to register online.

Childcare will be provided for younger children. Elementary age and up are welcome to help with packing. To help with planning, please register for childcare by visiting [bit.ly/RAHKids](http://bit.ly/RAHKids)

## Save the date!

### Mission Conference 2024

### March 9<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>

WITH SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS

**COLLEEN HERNANDEZ**  
Associate Director of Faith Ministry



**REV. DR. MARK MUELLER**  
Executive Director of  
The Outreach Foundation

## 2024 VBS

### JUNE 17 - 20

### 9AM TO 12PM

## Registration begins in March!



Grab your  
dive buddies for  
a whale of a  
good time!

