



Ash Wednesday

CARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 14, 2024

7:00 P.M.

Ash Wednesday

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Gathering

Prelude

*Opening Words

As we begin the season of Lent,
let us turn inward and tune our hearts.
Before an orchestra plays together,
they must all tune their instruments—
the cacophony of this process may be very loud
and create lots of dissonance, but it's a necessary step
in the process of creating harmonies and melodies.
And so, this Lent, how can you tune the instrument
of your heart so that it aligns with God?

*Prayer of the Day

Almighty God,
you despise nothing you have made
and you forgive the sins of all who trust in you.
Create in us new and contrite hearts,
that truly repenting of our sins,
and acknowledging our brokenness,
we may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
full pardon and forgiveness;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Hymn *Jesus Knows the Inmost Heart* (vv. 1, 2. & 4) No. 427

Word

Prayer for Illumination

Merciful God,
your word is our way of truth and life.
Create in us hearts that are clean
and put your Holy Spirit within us,
so that we may receive your grace
and declare your praise forever;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture Readings

Matthew 6:1-6. 16-21

Psalm 51:1-17

Sermon *Wandering Heart: Tune My Heart* Paul Lang

***Hymn** *Have Mercy, God, upon My Life* No. 421

Invitation to Observe a Holy Lent

Litany of Penitence

Holy and merciful God,
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.

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.
Have mercy on us, O God.

We have not listened 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.
Have mercy on us, O God.

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness.
For the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,
have mercy on us, O God.

For our self-indulgent appetites and ways
and our exploitation of other people,
have mercy on us, O God.

For our anger at our own frustration
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
have mercy on us, O God.

For our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
have mercy on us, O God.

For our negligence in prayer and worship,
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
have mercy on us, O God.

Accept our repentance, O God,
for the wrongs we have done.
For our neglect of human need and suffering
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
have mercy on us, O God.

For all false judgments,
for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,
and for our prejudice and contempt
toward those who differ from us,
have mercy on us, O God.

For our waste and pollution of your creation
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God of our salvation,
and show us your steadfast love.
**Turn to us in your mercy
and redeem us.**

Imposition of Ashes

Musical Offering

Be Merciful, O Lord
Chancel Choir

Ioncas

Be merciful, O Lord. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

*Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.*

*My offences truly I know them: my sin is always before me.
Against you alone have I sinned, what is evil in your sight I have done.*

*A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.*

*Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervor sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise.*

Sending

Blessing and Charge

May the God of peace
make you holy in every way
and keep your whole being—
spirit, soul, and body—
free from every fault
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Response:** *Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days* No. 166

***Postlude**

Today's Worship Service Participants

Ministers: Rev. Dr. Paul H. Lang, Rev. Paul Burgess

Music Director: Ed Yasick

Choir: Chancel Choir

Ushers: Jane Dunbar, Audrey Sausman

Tech: Rachel Campbell, Richard Wood

Slides: Su Johnson

CCLI No. 3015474

Spiritual Practices for Lent

Wandering Art Installation

Visio Divina, Latin for “divine seeing,” is a method of meditation, reflection, and prayer through a process of intentional seeing. We invite you to engage with pieces of art by various artists provided by A Sanctified Art. These will be displayed in worship, and will remain in the Sanctuary/Narthex, along with Artist Statements that provide theological reflections on their process creating these works. They can also be found in the Seeking Lenten Devotional.

Labyrinth Walking

As the days grow longer and warmer, we invite you to walk the outdoor labyrinth on the church grounds. During Holy Week, the indoor labyrinth will also be available in the Fellowship Hall.

Adult Faith Formation Classes during Lent

Pastor's Class: I Believe

(Sunday, 9:15-10:15 AM, starting February 18, Fellowship Hall)

Each Lord's Day we stand in our worship service and answer some portion of the question, "What do we believe?"

For Presbyterians this question is partially answered by the confessions, creeds, and catechisms included in our Book of Confessions. We are a confessional tradition which means we see the value in declaring what we believe. We have enough humility to know that we never get our declarations about God entirely right — so while we see the value of confessing faith, we also know that our creeds, etc. are always in need of revision and reconsideration.

The pastor's class will work our way through the Book of Confessions, considering the historical situation which created the declaration of faith, and also wondering how these might inform our own faith today.

***Pause: Spending Lent with the Psalms* by Elizabeth Caldwell.**

Lent is an ideal time to step back and reflect on the deeper movements of the spirit, and Elizabeth Caldwell helps readers do this through a simple but profound approach. *Pause: Spending Lent with the Psalms* invites us to take up the spiritual practice of encountering, sinking into, and deeply engaging with one psalm each week during Lent and Holy Week. There are two opportunities each week to engage with this material.

Parlor Class

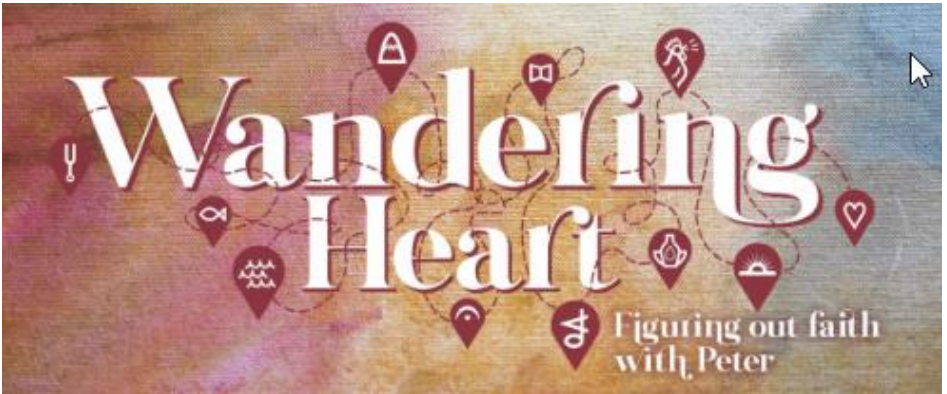
(Sundays, 9:15-10:15 AM, starting February 18, Parlor)

Join us for a cup of coffee and conversation about the week's reading on the Psalms.

Weekday Virtual Class

(Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30 PM, starting February 20, via Zoom)

Retired Pastor Matthew Swora will lead this weekly exploration of the week's Psalm and spiritual practice.



Observing Lent at Cary Presbyterian

As the season of Lent draws near, our community of faith offers a variety of ways to pursue a deeper connection with God, others, and self. Worship and faith formation offerings are inspired by resources from the folks at *A Sanctified Art* entitled "Wandering Heart: Figuring Out Faith With Peter." Along with the various gatherings listed below, we hope that these at-home resources will be helpful as well.

Lenten Devotional (*Online: Link accessible in E-Link*)

This resource contains scripture, commentary, poetry, visual art, and written reflections.

Daily Devotional Cards

These simple and easy to use daily devotional cards include a reminder/affirmation for building a daily rhythm of prayer.

Seeking Spotify Playlist (*Link accessible in E-Link*)

This playlist, curated by *A Sanctified Art*, covers a wide range of genres, themes, and musical styles. May this serve as the soundtrack for your Lenten season.

Printed copies of the Lenten Devotional and Prayer Cards are available in the Narthex.

Stay connected with the CPC App

Throughout the season of Lent, we will post devotionals, prayers, commentary, poetry, and art connected to the Wandering resources.