THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EVERETT

Worship Bulletin February 14, 2024 – 7pm Ash Wednesday

*For our liturgy this evening, **BOLD** text invites all to join in the reading.

Prelude	Have Mercy Lord My Sin Forgive – Bach	Gary Norris, Organist
Tielade	Have merey Lora my surrorgive Duen	Oury Months, Organise

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Alan Dorway

Call to Worship Joel 2:1-2, 12-14

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming,

It is near— a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness!

Like blackness spread upon the mountains, a great and powerful army comes;

Their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment.

Who knows whether he will not turn and relent and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God?

HymnLord, Who Throughout These Forty Days#81

Prayer of Confession

Creator God, you fashioned us out of dust, breathing your Spirit into us, so we might sing your praise. But we have denounced your gift of life in order to be our own gods, clinging to death-dealing idols of our own making.

We have denied our human status, seeking to lord it over those we label "less-than." We squelch all who are different through ignoring, belittling, segregating, demonizing, and bombing.

We believe survival-of-the-fittest lies, discounting the weak, and ignoring others' pain. Not trusting in your providence, we stop our ears to cries of those in need because we're afraid we won't have enough.

We have been unfaithful stewards, O Lord.

We live in a state of sin among a people of sin.

Save for your grace, we perish.

Remember our making, Creator God; remember we are dust.

Have mercy on us according to your loving kindness. Breathe new life into us once more, so we might be the people you created us to be. Restore unto us the joy of your salvation that we might do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray, Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

Those who so desire may come forward to receive an imposition of ashes as a sign of penitence not only for our individual sin, but also in recognition of our complicity in the sin of the world. The use of ashes is a sign of mortality and repentance with a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. This can be a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation.

Assurance of Pardon from Ezekiel 36:25-27

Hear the promise of God: "I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you will be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances."

Friends, the promises of God are true:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross That we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you! And also with you!

Hymn	And Can It Be That I Should Gain?	FPCE Sings #125		
Scripture	Matthew 6:16-21; 2 Corinthians 4			
Sermon	Soul Check	Rev. Dr. Alan Dorway		
Communion Liturgy				
The Lord be w	ith you.			

And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise. It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe. You hold all our days in your hand, the same hand that created the stars in the sky and shaped dust into human form. You breathed your life into us and set us in your world to love and serve you. But we reject your love. We praise you that you sent Jesus to redeem us with your love.

Living as one of us, baptized in Holy Spirit, he taught us your Way.

Even as our sin was betraying him, he sat at the table with his disciples and took bread and blessed it and broke it, saying,

This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. Then he took a cup, and said,

Take this and divide it among yourselves, for I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.

We remember your faithfulness unto death, O Lord, and look with awe upon your tortured love bleeding accursed upon a tree.

We celebrate Christ's rising that released us from bondage to sin.

Thank you for the gift of this table set as a sign of your Kingdom in our midst. Come now, Holy Spirit, and move among us that we might perceive your presence and our union with all the saints of all times and places as we partake of this covenant meal. **Amen**.

Hymn	What Wondrous Love Is This	#85
<u>Communion</u>		
Prayer		
Benediction		Rev. Dr. Alan Dorway
Postlude	Alas and Did My Savior Bleed – Bish	Gary Norris, Organist

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