

**GREENWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN**

**805 Main Avenue  
Warwick, Rhode Island**

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**MARCH 6, 2019**

**7:00 P.M.**

**PRELUDE**

*Medley of Hymns* arr. Alexandra Nichols

**INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE**

*(from the Book of Common Worship)*

Friends in Christ, every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.

Let us bow before God, our Creator and Redeemer, and confess our sin:

**PSALTER PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(Psalm 51; p. 804, Hymnal)*

**\*HYMN** *Thou Dost Reign On High* 241

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Isaiah 63:7-9; 64:4-5; 7-12; 65:1-2)*

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all the Lord has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel He has shown them according to His mercy, according to the abundance of His steadfast love.

FOR HE SAID, "SURELY THEY ARE MY PEOPLE, CHILDREN WHO WILL NOT DEAL FALSELY;" AND HE BECAME THEIR SAVIOR IN ALL THEIR DISTRESS.

It was no messenger or angel, but His presence, that saved them; in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; He lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

FROM AGES PAST NO ONE HAS HEARD, NO EAR HAS PERCEIVED, NO EYE HAS SEEN ANY GOD BESIDES YOU, WHO ACTS FOR THOSE WHO WAIT FOR HIM. YOU COME TO THE HELP OF THOSE WHO GLADLY DO RIGHT, WHO REMEMBER YOUR WAYS.

But when we continued to sin against them, You were angry. We have been a long time in our sins, and shall we be saved? There is no one who calls on Your name, or strives to take hold of You, and You have hidden Your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

YET, O LORD, YOU ARE OUR FATHER; WE ARE THE CLAY, AND YOU ARE OUR POTTER; WE ARE ALL THE WORK OF YOUR HAND. DO NOT BE ANGRY BEYOND MEASURE, O LORD; DO NOT REMEMBER OUR SINS FOREVER. BEHOLD, WE ARE ALL YOUR PEOPLE.

Your holy cities have become a wilderness, Zion has become a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation. Our holy and beautiful house, where our ancestors praised You, has been burned by fire, and all our pleasant places have become ruins. After all this, will You restrain yourself, O Lord? Will You keep silent, and afflict us so severely?

"I WAS READY TO BE SOUGHT BY THOSE WHO DID NOT ASK FOR ME, TO BE FOUND BY THOSE WHO DID NOT SEEK ME. I SAID, 'HERE AM I, HERE AM I,' TO A NATION THAT DID NOT CALL ON MY NAME. I HELD OUT MY HANDS ALL DAY LONG TO A REBELLIOUS PEOPLE, WHO WALK IN A WAY THAT IS NOT GOOD, FOLLOWING THEIR OWN DEVICES."

**\*HYMN** *The Glory of These Forty Days* *Bulletin back*

**\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Almighty God, Your Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin.

GIVE US GRACE TO SO DIRECT OUR LIVES IN OBEDIENCE TO YOUR SPIRIT, AS YOU KNOW OUR WEAKNESS, SO WE MAY KNOW YOUR POWER TO SAVE;

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,

WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN.

O Lord God, You led Your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land.

SO GUIDE US, THAT, FOLLOWING OUR SAVIOR, WE MAY WALK THROUGH THE WILDERNESS OF THIS WORLD TOWARD THE GLORY OF THE WORLD TO COME;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN.

God of the covenant, as the forty days of deluge swept away the world's corruption and watered new beginnings of righteousness and life,

THROUGHOUT THESE NEXT FORTY DAYS, SO UNSEAL WITHIN US THE WELLSPRING OF YOUR GRACE, CLEANSE OUR HEARTS OF ALL THAT IS NOT HOLY, AND CAUSE YOUR GIFT OF NEW LIFE TO FLOURISH ONCE AGAIN.

Grant that we, being born again of water and the Spirit, may joyfully serve You in newness of life and faithfully walk in Your holy ways;

THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU IN THE UNITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, NOW AND FOREVER. **AMEN.**

**NEW TESTAMENT READING** *II Corinthians 5:20-6:10; 7:1 (p. 1145, NT)*

**MEDITATION**

“ASHES TO ASHES, DUST TO DUST”

**OFFERING**

*Offertory Anthem*    *What Wondrous Love is This*        *arr. J. Leavitt*

*\*Doxology*

*\*Prayer of Dedication*

**\*HYMN**

*When I Survey The Wondrous Cross*

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**\*BENEDICTION**

**IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

### The Glory of These Forty Days

1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we  
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the  
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -  
 4 Then grant that we like them be true, con -

cel - e - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, by whom all  
 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,  
 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride-groom's  
 sumed in fast and prayer with you; our spir - its strength-en

things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.  
 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.  
 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.  
 with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.