

## 2024 Holy Week Schedule



***Maundy Thursday***  
***Worship with the Lord's Supper***  
*March 28th*  
*7:00 P.M.*

***Good Friday Service***  
*March 29th*  
*12:00pm*

***Easter Sunday - March 31st***  
*9:00 A.M.- Contemporary Service (outdoor)*  
*11:00 A.M.- Traditional Service*

## What is Ash Wednesday?

Traditionally the palms that we waved on Palm Sunday are burned to ashes and brought out for use on Ash Wednesday. On Ash Wednesday, ashes are placed, “imposed”, on our foreheads, or on the back of the hand, with a cross-shaped sign, saying, **“You are dust, and to dust you shall return,”** from Gen. 3:19. The ashes remind us of our mortality, the brevity of life, and our need for confession and avoidance of sin and pardon. At the same time, because the sign on our foreheads is cross-shaped, it’s meant to remind us of our baptism. **“We who have died in Christ will be raised with him.”** So the ultimate point of Ash Wednesday is to face up to some hard realities of our sinful nature, buoyed by our confident hope in the One who raised Jesus from the dead and who will have the last word over our lives, too.



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Chris Curvin, Pastor  
Paul Means, Associate Pastor for  
Congregational Care & Mission



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# ORDER OF WORSHIP ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14, 2024, 6:45 PM

OPENING VOLUNTARY “God So Loved the World” John Stainer

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Chris Curvin, Pastor

## GATHERING AROUND GOD’S WORD

\*CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on Psalm 51: 1-17)*

Leader: O God, have mercy on us, we pray.

**People: In your mercy, make us clean from our sins.**

Leader: Wipe away every failing and make us new in your sight.

**People: Restore us, deliver us, and re-create us, O Lord.**

Leader: Today is the day of salvation. Let us worship God!

\*HYMN “Ash Wednesday Comes” TALLIS’ CANON

**Ash Wednesday comes, and Lord, we hear  
The word for which our spirits yearn;  
Amid this world’s distress and fear,  
We hear your loving call: “Return!”**

**“Return to me with all your heart—  
With fasting, weeping, mourning, too.”  
O God, we seek a brand new start,  
A new beginning here with you.**

**You call to us--- the old, the young;  
You summon nations strong and weak.  
When we have drifted toward the wrong,  
You call us back, your way to seek.**

**O God most merciful and kind,  
Your love is not a prize we earn;  
Yet in our life with you we find  
The joy that comes when we return.**

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

**Mighty Lord, we confess that we are lost without you. Forgive us. So often we forget that without you we are but dust and ashes with no hope beyond this life. Forgive us. In our assembly and in our daily lives keep our hearts and minds fixed on the cross of Christ and the study of God’s Word to us; remembering that our hope rests in his death and resurrection. May our journey these forty days be one of faith in you, service to your world, and claiming the forgiveness which is ours in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 51: 1-3, 10-12

MEDITATION “Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God”  
Paul Means, Associate Pastor

## RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*Those who wish to participate and receive ashes are asked to come forward for their imposition. Ashes acknowledge our mortality; the Sign of the Cross signifies the eternal life of those who believe in Jesus as Savior.*

“O Man, Thy Grievous Sin Bemoan” J.S. Bach

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

\*HYMN #421 “Have Mercy, God, Upon My Life” IRISH  
*(stanzas 1,2,4,5)*

**Have mercy, God, upon my life, and make me clean within;  
pour out your ever-faithful love and wash away my sin.**

**My guilt is heavy on my mind; I know what I have done:  
against your justice I have sinned, against you, God, alone.**

**Create in me a faithful heart, a spirit right and new.  
Sustain me with your saving love and keep me close to you.**

**Then I will praise you with my heart, my mind, my soul, my voice.  
You save the least and seek the lost; let all the world rejoice.**

\*BENEDICTION

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

Stephanie Carson, Music Director  
David Furr, Organist