



NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING



Wilkesboro Presbyterian Chapel
A Service of Worship • Ash Wednesday
March 5, 2024—6:30 p.m.

Silent Prayer for Preparation

"It's a season of unmasking, of veils lifted. We are seeing our collective soul with a clarity that is disorienting. Listen for the apathy, the cruelty, and neglect. Then listen closely for all who dare resist."

- Cole Arthur Riley

Call to Worship

Rev. R.C. Griffin

One: God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.

Many: God's love endures forever.

One: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore, we will not fear though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though the waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

Many: God's love endures forever.

One: God abides with us and teaches us to die to self and to live repentant lives.

All: God's love endures forever.

We return, we remember, and we will listen well. Let us worship God.

***Hymn (#434)**

Restore in Us, O God

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Amanda Horan

One: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,
you are one who guards and guides our way.

Many: Have mercy upon us.

One: To follow you is to trust you in paradox; that from a broken, aching heart,

Many: rises a healing and hopeful heart;

One: that out of weakness and vulnerability,

Many: grows the quickening of Christ's Love;

One: that in darkness and despair,

Many: the radiance of Christ's Light shines.

One: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,
we fail to follow you; we turn away.

Many: Forgive us, we pray.

Sung Reflection (#576, sing 2x)

Lord, Have Mercy

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

One: This day. This evening.

**Many: There was evening, then morning, the first day.
And it was good. Very good.**

One: This day. This Evening. Ashes to Ashes. Dust to Dust.

Many: We are grounded in the Source of All Being. This day. This Evening.

One: For needing evidence for every holy matter,
and wanting none for our indifference to all injustice,

Many: Forgive and accept our repentance.

One: For failure to speak and praise your name alone
and that we do not make a defense for the hope that is within us,

Many: Forgive and accept our repentance.

One: Restore us, O God.

All: Favorably hear us, for your mercy and forgiveness are great. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: According to the Lord's abundant mercy,
there is forgiveness for all who seek repentance,

**All: According to the Lord's abundant mercy,
there is grace for all who turn their hearts to the way of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.**

Congregational Response (#447)

We Are Forgiven

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

(One: Holy wisdom, holy word. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Reflection

In Every Way

Rev. R.C. Griffin

***Hymn (#433)**

Sign Us with Ashes

Invitation to the Observation of the Lenten Discipline

Prayer Over Ashes

One: From dust we came, to dust we shall return;
and even yet, we sing "Alleluia" at the grave because death is not the end,
only a sign of an impending resurrection.
May these ashes tonight be for us a sign of our mortality,
a desire for repentance, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift
are we given everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Into your loving and merciful ways, Source of Being,

Many: we commend our lives.

One: Accomplish in us, Holy One, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,

Many: the work of your saving grace.

One: By the passion of our Savior, Jesus Christ,

All: bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection. Amen.

***Imposition of Ashes**

(When you are ready, please proceed to the door using the center aisle for the imposition of ashes. All are invited to receive ashes either on the forehead or the hand from the person in front of them. Once you have received ashes, turn to the person behind you and impose ashes on them, saying: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." After receiving and imposing the ashes, you may leave the sanctuary quietly as people ready for a Lenten journey. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.)

*Please rise in body or spirit



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Restore in Us, O God

434

Capo 1: (Em) (Bm7) (Em)(Bm7) (Em) (C) (Bm)
Fm Cm7 Fm Cm7 Fm D^b Cm



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love;
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your power;
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy;
4 Three - per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace,

(Am7) (Em) (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Bm7) (Em)
B^bm7 Fm B^bm Cm Fm Cm7 Fm



re - new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
from fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flower.
bap - tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
that we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

This text reflects the historic understanding of Lent as a time to prepare catechumens for Baptism and penitents for reconciliation at the Easter Vigil. The first three stanzas address one of the three divine Persons, while the fourth stanza implores the help of the full Trinity.

TEXT: Carl P. Daw Jr., 1987
MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1985
Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company
Music © 1985 Hope Publishing Company

BAYLOR
SM

576

Lord, Have Mercy



Lord, have mer - cy.



Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text

MUSIC: Swee Hong Lim, 1990

Music © 1990 Swee Hong Lim (admin. General Board of Global Ministries t/a GBGMusik)

SINGAPURA

447

We Are Forgiven

We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to
 God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.
 We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

To sing, rather than simply say, a response to the Declaration of Forgiveness has the effect of making the moment both more affirmative and more corporate. The musical repetition of the two sentences also strengthens awareness of what it means to be assured of God's pardon.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
 MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1995
 Music © 1995 Hal H. Hopson

WE ARE FORGIVEN
 10.8.10.8

433

Sign Us with Ashes

Capo 3: (G) (D) (Em) (Bm) (Am7)
 Refrain B^b F Gm Dm Cm7
All

Sign us with ash - es, mer - ci - ful God, chil - dren of
 dust, as to dust we re - turn. Sign us with ash - es,
 mer - ci - ful God. Mark us and make us your own. *Fine*

(G) (Am7) (D) (G) (D)
 B^b Cm7 F B^b F

(Em) (Bm) (Am7) (D7) (Gsus) (G)
 Gm Dm Cm7 F7 B^bsus B^b

(D) (G) (C)
 F B^b E^b
Leader or All

1 Sure - ly, you a - lone can save us. You pay our
 2 Sure - ly, you a - lone up - hold us. You give us
 3 Sure - ly, you a - lone can heal us. Yours is the
 4 Sure - ly, you a - lone can free us. You break the
 5 Sure - ly, you a - lone re - fine us. You give us
 6 Sure - ly, you a - lone re - deem us. You fill our

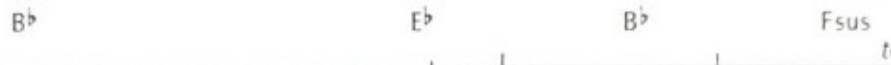
(G) (D) (G) (D)
 B^b F B^b F

price with pre - cious blood. Reach - ing through your
 strength for all our needs. Shield - ing with a
 will to make us whole. Sooth - ing with a
 bonds of guilt and sin. Brac - ing, till we
 grace for lives made new, forg - ing, through your
 dust with ho - ly breath. Burst - ing from the

The refrain here recalls the imposition of ashes, a ritual based on Genesis 3:19, which has been a part of Christian worship on Ash Wednesday since the 9th century. As *The Book of Common Worship* states, "This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life."

(G) (C) (G) (Dsus) (D)
B $\flat$ E $\flat$ B $\flat$ Fsus F

to Refrain



great com - pas - sion, you lift up your peo - ple with love.
fa - ther's fa - vor, you bless us with par - don and peace.
moth - er's kind - ness, the con - trite of heart, you con - sole.
walk up - right - ly, you bol - ster our hope once a - gain.
fire and ra - diance, a sac - ri - fice wor - thy for you.
grave in glo - ry, you rise from the ash - es of death!