

# APOLLO UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

## Ash Wednesday Service

March 5, 2025

7:00 p.m.

+Ash Wednesday allows us an opportunity to prepare to offer ourselves to the journey that the Spirit calls us to in these next 40 days as we journey toward the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There are numerous ways by which we offer ourselves to God: sharing our gifts with our community, loving our neighbor, giving from our blessings to further the kingdom of God here on earth. There will be offering plates at the start of each aisle in the sanctuary for financial gifts. Please use an envelope to write AUPC or BSPC so that it may be allocated to your church's mission. Thank you.

### Gathering Around the Word

Opening Prayer "Marked by Ashes" by Walter Brueggemann

PRELUDE "In Remembrance of Me"  
with Dr. Geoffrey Atkinson

B. Red

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

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

**All: 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.

**All: 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 166 "Lord, Who Throughout these Forty Days"

### Proclaiming the Word

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PROPHETIC LESSON Isaiah 58:1-12

\*HYMN #421 "Have Mercy, God, upon My Life" Psalm 51

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 7:12-14

Homily "Enter" Rev. Niki Atkinson

### Responding to the Word

#### INVITATION TO THE OBSERVATION OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

One: Before Christ, let us confess our sin, how it is with our life, and our lives together: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, you are one who guards and guides our way.

**All: Have mercy upon us.**

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

**All: rises a healing and hopeful heart.**

One: that out of weakness and vulnerability,

**All: grows the quickening of Christ's Love.**

One: that in darkness and despair,

**All: the radiance of Christ's Light shines.**

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

**All: Forgive us, we pray.**

One: As certain as the morning sun that rises, you are here, Lord.

**All: Forgive us, we pray.**

One: This day. This Evening.

**All: 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.

**All: 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,

**All: 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,

**All: Forgive and accept our repentance.**

One: Restore us, O God.

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

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

**Invitation**

**Words of Institution**

**Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

**Imposition of Ashes**

**Prayer following Communion (unison)**

**God who forgives, we have been marked as your people,  
seeking your grace. We have been sustained by this meal  
from your table. Continue to walk with us these forty days,  
as we try so hard to walk with you. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #165 “The Glory of These Forty Days”**

## **\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE “A New Song”**

D. Eliot

\*Please stand in body or spirit

***A special welcome to our visitors.*** If you are seeking Christ, we trust you will find Him; if you are sorrowing, we pray you will receive comfort; if you are troubled in spirit, we pray you will gain the blessings of peace; if you are discouraged, we pray you will find hope in our Lord. If you are seeking a spiritual home, we invite you to consider uniting with us.

***We believe that we are all ministers supported by:***

**Rev. Niki Atkinson – Office Hours Tues. & Wed. 9:30-4:00**

**Please call for appointments.**

**E-mail [pastor@aupc.comcastbiz.net](mailto:pastor@aupc.comcastbiz.net)**

**Amy Shupe, Organist; Joel Varga, Assistant Organist**

**Zach Bush, Trumpeter Sam Mullooly, Trombonist**

**Linda Truffa, Office Administrator Dan Tomlinson, Custodian**

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**Office Hours: Monday through Friday – 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM**

