

WORSHIP FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**THE ASHES**

**PRELUDE**

**INTROIT** “I Love You, Lord” GtG 627

**I love you, Lord,  
and I lift my voice  
to worship you; O my soul, rejoice.  
Take joy, my King,  
in what you hear;  
may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.**

Text and Music: Laurie Klein  
Copyright 1978, 1980 House of Mercy Music (admin. Brentwood-  
Benson Music Publishing, Inc.)  
*Used by permission through CCLI License #11178434 / #2457662.*

**OPENING SENTENCES** *(from Joel 2)*

**One:** The prophet Joel cried out:  
**All:** **“Return to the Lord with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;”**  
**One:** “rend your hearts and not your clothing.”  
**All:** **“For God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger,  
and abounding in steadfast love.”**  
**Unison:** **We come to worship God just as we are.**

**\*HYMN** “Just as I Am, without One Plea” GtG 442

**1. Just as I am, without one plea  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou biddest me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

*(continued...)*

2. **Just as I am, and waiting not  
to rid my soul of one dark blot,  
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**
  
3. **Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**
  
4. **Just as I am, thy love unknown  
has broken every barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

Words: Charlotte Elliott, 1834, alt. *Public Domain*  
 Music: WOODWORTH, William Batchelder Bradbury, 1849; *Public Domain*  
 Music Harm. © 1955, ren. 1983 John Ribble (admin. Westminster John Knox  
 Press), *All rights reserved. Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with permission*  
*under ONE LICENSE #A-739819/#A-739796. All rights reserved.*

**SCRIPTURE** Psalm 51:1-17 (*Common English Bible*)

- One: Have mercy on me, God, according to your faithful love!  
**All: Wipe away my wrongdoings according to your great compassion!**
- One: Wash me completely clean of my guilt;  
**All: purify me from my sin!**
- One: Because I know my wrongdoings,  
**All: my sin is always right in front of me.**
- One: I've sinned against you—you alone.  
**All: I've committed evil in your sight.**
- One: That's why you are justified when you render your verdict,  
**All: completely correct when you issue your judgment.**
- One: Yes, I was born in guilt, in sin,  
**All: from the moment my mother conceived me.**
- One: And yes, you want truth in the most hidden places;  
**All: you teach me wisdom in the most secret space.**
- 
- One: Purify me with hyssop and I will be clean;  
**All: wash me and I will be whiter than snow.**
- One: Let me hear joy and celebration again;  
**All: let the bones you crushed rejoice once more.**

One: Hide your face from my sins;  
**All: wipe away all my guilty deeds!**  
 One: Create a clean heart for me, God;  
**All: put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me!**  
 One: Please don't throw me out of your presence;  
**All: please don't take your holy spirit away from me.**  
 One: Return the joy of your salvation to me  
**All: and sustain me with a willing spirit.**  
 One: Then I will teach wrongdoers your ways,  
**All: and sinners will come back to you.**

One: Deliver me from violence, God of my salvation,  
**All: so that my tongue can sing of your righteousness.**  
 One: Lord, open my lips,  
**All: and my mouth will proclaim your praise.**  
 One: You don't want sacrifices.  
**All: If I gave an entirely burned offering, you wouldn't be pleased.**  
 One: A broken spirit is my sacrifice, God.  
**All: You won't despise a heart, God, that is broken and crushed.**

**MEDITATION** Pastor Bill Vincent

### **SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

One: We offer ourselves to God, unworthy as we are. We offer ourselves to God in humility and love, and in our desire to be faithful.  
**All: And Christ offers himself to us in the bread and cup of this sacrament.**  
 One: With this sacrament, we remember Jesus's sacrifice on our behalf, and his obedience unto death.  
**All: In this sacrament we receive the promise of renewal, and the forgiveness of our faithlessness, all through the faithfulness of God.**  
 One: For this is the gracious feast of God, prepared for the people of God.  
**All: The sacrament of our Lord Jesus Christ in remembrance of his last supper with his disciples.**  
 One: The invitation is to all who would heed his call to follow and obey.  
**All: The invitation is to all who yearn to know him and to love him.**  
**Unison: The invitation is to you and to me.**  
 One: So let us lift up our hearts.  
**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
One: Let us pray.  
Unison: **We thank you, O God, for your grace given to us in your Son, Jesus Christ. By his death our sins are forgiven. Through his resurrection we are offered new life. In his ministry we are guided in the way we should go. Strengthen us through the offering of this sacrament, that we might be nurtured and filled for the living of our days. Amen.**  
One: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night in which he was betrayed, took the bread. And when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said,  
All: **“Take, eat. This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”**  
One: In the same manner he took the cup, saying,  
All: **“This is the cup of the new covenant, sealed in my blood. All of you, drink of it, doing this in remembrance of me.”**  
One: For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

----- DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS -----

*(Please partake of each of the elements  
as you are served,  
celebrating Christ’s love for you,  
offering your love to him.)*

**Sing** “More Love to Thee, O Christ” GtG 828

1. **More love to thee, O Christ,  
more love to thee!  
Hear thou the prayer I make  
on bended knee.  
This is my earnest plea:  
more love, O Christ, to thee;  
more love to thee,  
more love to thee!**

*(continued...)*

2. **Once earthly joy I craved,  
sought peace and rest.  
Now thee alone I seek;  
give what is best.  
This all my prayer shall be:  
more love, O Christ, to thee;  
more love to thee,  
more love to thee!**

3. **Then shall my latest breath  
whisper thy praise;  
this be the parting cry  
my heart shall raise.  
This still its prayer shall be:  
more love, O Christ, to thee;  
more love to thee,  
more love to thee!**

1. **More love to thee, O Christ,  
more love to thee!  
Hear thou the prayer I make  
on bended knee.  
This is my earnest plea:  
more love, O Christ, to thee;  
more love to thee,  
more love to thee!**

Words: Elizabeth Payson Prentiss, 1856  
Music: William Howard Doane, 1870  
*Public Domain*

**One:** Let us pray.

**Unison:** **We thank you, O God, for this sacrament of communion and your Son Jesus Christ. Nourish us by these gifts of bread and cup. Strengthen us by our remembrance of him and his faithfulness. Transform us by his presence among us. And hear the love song we share with you, as we give ourselves to you, O Lord, in gratitude for your giving of yourself to us. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” GtG 223

1. **When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the Prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.**
2. **Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
save in the death of Christ my God;  
all the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.**
3. **See, from his head, his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down;  
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown?**
4. **Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Words: Isaac Watts, 1707  
Music: Lowell Mason, 1824  
*Public Domain*

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One: ...And let the gathered people of God say...  
All: ...Amen.

**POSTLUDE**

The Opening Sentences are reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2014.