



# Service for the Lord's Day

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

February 26, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Please SILENCE ALL Personal Electronic Devices Before Worship.

## **We Gather as God's People**

***Welcome to our worship service. Take a moment to quiet yourself as we prepare ourselves for worship.***

Welcome and Preparation for Worship

Welcome to Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church! In this space, we invite you to bring all of who you are - your identity, your beliefs, your doubts, your questions, and your story wherever you are on your journey in life. Our prayer is that together we will experience God's presence.

### **The Gathering Music**

### **The Welcome and Announcements**

### **Prelude**

### **Call to Worship** [Responsive]

*One:* The Peace of Christ be with you.

*Many:* **And also with you.**

*One:* For just such a time as this we were made in the image of God, loving, grace-giving, and wise,

*Many:* **we are created to be the hands, hearts, and feet of divinity.**

*One:* We gather as we begin this Lenten journey together, not because we must, not to puff ourselves up,

*Many:* **but to start out following Jesus on the path filled with tears, suffering, grief, and death, yet leading to the promise of new life!**

### **The Opening Hymn** *PH* # 80 ..... "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

**Jesus walked this lonesome valley, He had to walk it by Himself;  
O, nobody else could walk it for Him, He had to walk it by Himself.**

**We must walk this lonesome valley, We have to walk it by ourselves;  
O, nobody else can walk it for us, We have to walk it by ourselves.**

**You must go and stand your trial, You have to stand it by yourself,  
O, nobody else can stand it for you, You have to stand it by yourself.**

### **Our Lenten Journey Begins with Dust**

#### **The Imposition of Ashes**

### **An Ash Wednesday Reflection** ..... by Jan Richardson

My husband Gary's ashes are in the keeping of my brother. Scott is holding onto them until the day I can bear to gather them up and release them. On that day, we will bury Gary's ashes on the farm that has been in the Richardson family for more than a century; the farm where, on a bright spring day so recently, Gary and I were married.

You can imagine that Ash Wednesday will feel different for me this year and always. The sheer fact of Gary's ashes poses questions that stagger me and make me ache: questions that I am working my way through ever so slowly, questions for which I do not anticipate ever having answers.

In the midst of my struggle and sorrow, what I keep seeing are the hands that hold the ashes—my brother’s hands, and the hands of those who, in gatherings around the world next Wednesday, will trace the sign of the cross on each brow: sign of repentance and release, sign of stubborn hope. If I never make sense of the ashes and their awful and aching mystery, I can hold on, at least, to the hands that bear them, and that bear me up in these days.

How about you? What Hands Have Held You or Bore You Up in Times of Grief after the death of a loved one?

**The Silence**

**The Imposition of Ashes**

*(You are invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes. Pastor Scott will make the sign of the cross on your forehead, offering the words “Human remember, you are dust, and it is to dust you will return.” You may respond: “Amen”. Then return to your seat).*

**Instrumental Musical Interlude** ..... “What Wondrous Love Is This”

**A Blessing for Ash Wednesday** ..... Jan Richardson

Will you meet us in the ashes, will you meet us in the ache  
and show your face within our sorrow and offer us your word of grace:  
That you are life within the dying, that you abide within the dust,  
that you are what survives the burning, that you arise to make us new.  
And in our aching, you are breathing; and in our weeping, you are here within the hands  
that bear your blessing, enfolding us within your love.

**We Listen for God’s Word**

**The Prayer for Illumination** [Responsive]

*One:* Let us pray... God, you reach into our lives not through instruction, but story.

*Many:* **Open our hearts to be attentive: that seeing, we may perceive, and hearing, we may understand, and understanding, may act upon your word, that still lives and speaks to us. Amen.**

**The Scripture**

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

**One:** For the Word of God in Scripture, For the Word of God among us, For the Word of God within us,

**Many:** We give thanks to God!

**The Reflection** .....Rev. Scott Marrese Wheeler

## **We Respond to God's Love**

**The Prayer Hymn** *PH* # 404.....“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

Precious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, help me stand;  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; Through the storm, through the night,  
Lead me on the light; Take my hand, precious Lord, Lead me home.

When my way grows drear, Precious Lord, linger near;  
When my life is almost gone, Hear my cry, hear my call,  
Hold my hand lest I fall; Take my hand, Precious Lord, lead me home.

**The Pastoral Prayer** [Responsive]

*One:* Let us pray... God, You are a God of compassion and love. Time after time we have experienced your care and provision. Time after time You've answered our prayers and met our needs— often in ways we could never have dreamed possible.

**Many:** We praise You for Your faithful love toward us.

*One:* Because we have known Your love, we come to You with confidence, offering our prayers for the world that You love.

**Many:** God of Love, hear our prayers.

*One:* We see so much pain and suffering; so much anger and frustration and despair. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the needs around us. But we continue to bring our prayers to You in faith, because we know that nothing is impossible for You.

You are the God who rained down bread from heaven, and made water flow from a rock in the desert; the God who resurrected Jesus Christ from the dead, and who brings new life and hope to all who believe. For You, all things are possible.

**Many:** hear our prayers.

*One:* We pray for those suffering the effects of recent natural disasters...in Turkey and Syria, and other places around the world, including in our own nation.

**Many:** God of compassion, hear our prayers.

*One:* Because nothing is impossible for You, O God,

**Many:** hear our prayer, and in Your love, answer.

*One:* We pray for the regions of our world caught up in violence and threats of violence that continue in our nation daily with mass shootings, suicides, and racial injustices.

Because nothing is impossible for You, O God,

**Many:** hear our prayer, and in Your love, answer.

*One:* We pray for those who live with serious illness, those with chronic pain, those without access to proper medical care, those for whom treatment is no longer an option. Because nothing is impossible for You, O God,

**Many:** hear our prayer, and in Your love, answer.

*One:* Merciful God, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to show us a different way to live— the way of deep humility and obedience. You've called us to love one another, and to work together with one heart and mind, balancing our needs with the needs of those around us. Give us courage to follow faithfully, and with integrity— with actions that bear witness to the words we speak, and worship that overflows into our daily tasks and relationships— we offer you our lives and these prayers, in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to love one another, and to pray, saying...

**ALL:** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Offering of Our Tithes and Our Gifts to God**

## **We Depart to Do God's Will**

**Closing Hymn** *PH* # 384 ..... “O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”

O love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee;

I give Thee back the life I owe, That in Thine ocean depths its flow May richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to Thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray, That in Thy sunshine's blaze its day  
May brighter, fairer be.

O joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to Thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain, And feel the promise is not vain  
That morn shall tearless be.

O cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from Thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead, And from the ground there blossoms red  
Life that shall endless be.

**The Blessing** .....by Jan Richardson

**BELOVED IS WHERE WE BEGIN**

If you would enter into the wilderness, do not begin without a blessing.

Do not leave without hearing who you are: Beloved,  
named by the One who has traveled this path before you.

Do not go without letting it echo in your ears, and if you find it is hard  
to let it into your heart, do not despair.

That is what this journey is for.

I cannot promise this blessing will free you from danger, from fear, from hunger or thirst,  
from the scorching of sun or the fall of the night.

But I can tell you that on this path there will be help.

I can tell you that on this way there will be rest.

I can tell you that you will know the strange graces that come to our aid only on a road  
such as this, that fly to meet us bearing comfort and strength,  
that come alongside us for no other cause than to lean themselves toward our ear  
and with their curious insistence whisper our name: Beloved. Beloved. Beloved.

**The Sending** [Responsive] ..... Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

*One:* In every person,

**Many: God is with us.**

*One:* We will welcome God in the family we know all too well,

**Many: and in the strangers we will meet in the coming days.**

*One:* In every choice,

**Many: Jesus is with us.**

*One:* We will welcome the Christ who serves us unexpectedly,

**Many: and in those who will offer us forgiveness.**

*One:* In every moment,

**Many: the Spirit is with us.**

*One:* We will welcome the Spirit who calls us to live

**Many: as well as calling us to give of ourselves without question.**

*One:* As you have been forgiven, now go into a world that needs your forgiving, healing  
touch. Bring Christ's compassion, peace and hope to others, sharing God's love with  
them. Shalom, Salaam, Paz, Peace. And all God's people say:

**Many: AMEN.**

**The Sung Response** *PH* # 432 ..... "Song of Hope"

May the God of hope go with us everyday, Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.

May the God of justice speed us on our way, Bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace, Singing, share our joy with all,

Working for a world that's new, Faithful when we hear Christ's call.

**We Carry the Light of Christ Out into the World**

**Postlude**



The liturgy this morning is from: Call to Worship ~ excerpted from “An Ash Wednesday Liturgy” written by Tim Graves and posted on **LiturgyBits**; A Blessing for Ash Wednesday ~ Jan Richardson, 2016 update: “Will You Meet Us?” appears in my new book *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*; Prayer for Illumination ~ written by Stephen Fearing, and posted on *Wild and Precious Life*; The Blessing ~ from *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*. First published at <http://paintedprayerbook.com/.../lent-1-beloved-is-where.../>; The Sending ~ Nancy C. Townley, posted on Ministry Matters website.

*Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church is committed to using language in such a way that all members of the community of faith may recognize themselves to be included, addressed, and equally cherished before God. Seeking to bear witness to the whole world, the church struggles to use language which is faithful to the biblical truth and which neither purposefully nor inadvertently excludes people because of gender, color, or other circumstance in life. (Book of Order, W-1.2006)*

**Everyone is invited to stay for fellowship and refreshment following worship today.**

- Our musician today is Angie Williams.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS —**

- If you would like to be added to the mailing list for our newsletter, *The Good News*, please send either your email (preferred) or snail mail address to the church office. (Our addresses are listed on the last page of the bulletin.)
- Help us save “pig points.” For us to receive a rebate, please turn in your receipts from the Cambridge Piggly Wiggly in one of three ways: **1.** Place them in the brown bag in the narthex. **2.** Cheryl Stitz will do a porch pickup of any receipts that you may have. Call her at 608-695-1838 to make arrangements. **3.** Receipts can also be mailed to the church office. All funds received are used for mission projects.

## **WORSHIP SERVICES UPDATE:**

### **2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT, MARCH 5 WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION AT**

**10 AM** – In In-person worship continues this Sunday in the sanctuary. We are still mindful of the presence of COVID along with the cold and flu. If you are not feeling well, we would encourage you to remain home and join us for worship on our Facebook Live-Stream. Masks are also available for those who would feel more comfortable wearing them for their own health and safety. We do encourage people to encourage people to get vaccinated and boosted. Thank you.



#### **WISH LIST!**

The Cambridge Food Pantry has been seeing a sharp increase in food insecurity among our neighbors, and like everywhere in America, the high cost of food and other household items is having an impact on our inventory.

With the growing number of neighbors in need and the low supply of food on our shelves, I am reaching out to ask for your help.

With the winter months ahead of us, the need will only increase, please consider helping your neighbors by donating to the food pantry.

**The food pantry is currently seeking donations of:** Soup (variety of canned soup), Corned Beef Hash, SpaghettiOs, Ravioli, other canned meals and pastas, Crackers (Saltines, Ritz, etc.), Baked Beans, Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Pancake Syrup, Shampoo and Conditioner, Men's and Women's Deodorant, Razors, Bath Soap, Laundry Soap, Toothpaste.

Monetary donations are always greatly appreciated!

For more information on how you can make a difference this holiday season, or to volunteer at the food pantry, please email: [foodpantry@cambridge.k12.wi.us](mailto:foodpantry@cambridge.k12.wi.us) or call Kerry at (608)423-8142.

The Cambridge Food Pantry website can be found at <https://cambridgecap.net/programs/nutrition/food-pantry/>

Thank you for your continued generous support!

Kerry Marren, Community Activities Program, Cambridge Food Pantry Coordinator

### **PLEASE HOLD THESE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN PRAYER THIS WEEK —**

Julie Anderson  
Linda Johnson  
Jan & Nancy Kristiansen  
Mardy Schilleman  
Marilyn Schuster  
Jenine Spack

The families of Lorin Fulton, Evelyn Reiner, Caleb Wipperfurth, (CHS graduate who has died of cancer), Jim Schilleman, Donald Hawkins and families who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

If you would like to be added to our weekly prayer list, please leave word in the church office or contact the pastor. Permission to be included in this publicly posted list has been obtained from those listed or their families.

## **Church Schedule**

**Worship Service:** 10:00 a.m. Sunday

**Communion:** First Sunday of each month

**Pastoral Office Hours:** Generally 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Wednesday or by appointment

**Business Office Hours:** 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday

(Church hours are approved by Session and posted on church entry doors.)

**Telephone/Fax:** 608-423-3001

**Email:** [Office@OCPChurch.com](mailto:Office@OCPChurch.com) or [Pastor@OCPChurch.com](mailto:Pastor@OCPChurch.com)

**Web:** [www.OCPChurch.com](http://www.OCPChurch.com)

**Mailing Address:** 313 E. Main St., Cambridge, WI 53523-9629



**Visit us on Facebook:** Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church

### **SESSION** (Meets the second Sunday of each month.)

Class of 2023: Randy Johnson.

Class of 2024: Mare Stewart, Mark Touhey

Class of 2025: Joe Leto, Melanie Rumpf

### **CHURCH STAFF**

**Music—**



**Accompanists:** Karen Brunk, Marian Korth, Karen Tordera,  
Angie Williams,

**Business Manager:** Ruth Poole

**Pastor:** Pastor Scott Marrese-Wheeler: (608) 417-0231 cell;  
[Pastor@OCPChurch.com](mailto:Pastor@OCPChurch.com) Facebook: Scott Marrese-Wheeler  
Follow Rev. Scott on Twitter: @2revsScott