



**Kingston Presbyterian Church
Ash Wednesday Service
March 2, 2022 at 7pm
In person & online**

Welcome

Prelude: *Sanctus*

Lani Smith

Prayer of Releasing and Gathering

Call to Worship

Adapted from Joel 2:1–2, 12–14

Leader: Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

People: Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—

Leader: a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness!

People: Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Leader: Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

People: Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God?

Leader: Return to the Lord! Let us worship God.

Song of Praise: *Spirit of the Living God* [3x]

GTG #288

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Creator God, you fashioned us out of dust, breathing your Spirit into us, so we might sing your praise.

All: But we have denounced your gift of life in order to be our own gods, clinging to death-dealing idols of our own making.

Leader: We have denied our creaturely status, seeking to lord it over those we label “less-than.”

All: We squelch all who are different through ignoring, belittling, murdering, and bombing.

Leader: We believe survival-of-the-fittest lies, discounting the weak, and profiting by others’ pain.

All: Not trusting in your providence, we stop our ears to cries of those in need because we’re afraid we won’t have enough.

Leader: We have been unfaithful stewards, O Lord.

All: We live in a state of sin among a people of sin.

Leader: Save for your grace, we perish. Remember our making, Creator God; remember we are dust and we are loved and to You we shall return.

All: Have mercy on us according to your loving kindness. Breathe new life into us once more, so we might be the people you created us to be. Restore unto us the joy of your salvation that we might do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray, Amen.

Sitting with Scripture

Psalm 103:1–14, Isaiah 58:1–12, 2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

Holy Words. Holy Wisdom. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Working with Scripture

Questions for our scriptures.

What struck you about this text? Where did you hear God speaking in your life?

What did you fail to notice?

Why do you suppose you focused on what you did and not on other things?

What do you resist in this passage? Why do you suppose that is?

Who is the Lord asking you to be and what is the Lord asking you to do differently through this passage of Scripture?

Offertory: *Jesus, Lover of my Soul*

David Simmons

We Respond to Scripture

Turning Towards God ~ Prayer Stations

Offering (Index Cards)

While unusual, this offering reminds us that what we have to offer God often falls short of God's good desires for us. Write down one thing that gets in the way of following Christ.

For example, we may write that we want to work on our lack of spiritual discipline or our tendency to gossip. On the back of that same card, you are invited to reflect upon tangible things. Place the cards in the offering "plate" as a symbol of surrendering and giving back to God.

Take another index card to rewrite the same for you to take with you.

Imposition of Ashes (Ashes)

You are invited to write down areas in your life where they are broken. As you walk up to receive the imposition of ashes, place the paper into the Baptismal Font. Hear the words of grace. "Remember that you are love and to love you shall return." (Gen. 3:19)

Our Broken World (Pictures of the world)

Consider the pictures gathered of various broken parts of our world. Take one to hold and pray for God's mercy and justice to roll down like waters upon that space and situation. When you are finished praying, light a candle to claim Christ's light.

Let Jesus Melt Your Worries Away (Ice cube & cloth)

“Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive and you will be forgiven.” Luke 6:37

Is there someone in your life that you need to forgive? Is there a pain on your heart or soul that you need to release? Close your eyes and imagine that whatever it is that you need to let go of is in the ice cube. Pray to God to give you the strength and the courage to let go. As the ice cube melts, imagine that God has lifted that burden from your heart. Feel your heart get lighter as the cube gets smaller and smaller. Once the ice cube is completely gone, imagine how much lighter your heart is now. Offer God a prayer of thanksgiving for taking your burden away.

Knot Prayers (Tied Rope)

Cast all your anxiety on Jesus who cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

Take a piece of rope. Pray and ask forgiveness for times that you have worried instead of trusting God. Untie the knot in your rope symbolizing that you are releasing your worry to God and you will not be tied up in knots by it anymore. Take a piece of rope as a reminder.

Words of Assurance

Rejoice, my friends! For now is the day of salvation! In Christ Jesus, we are reconciled to God and may walk this journey with humility and faith. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

GTG #835

Benediction

Trust in God's mercy. Live in God's love. Believe in God's grace. Give voice to God's justice. Rejoice in God's name. Share God's peace.

Loved by God, Saved by Jesus, Sent by the Spirit. We go!