

NORTHPARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ash Wednesday
February 14, 2024



PRELUDE Wondrous Love
Louis Walker, Organist

A. Wyton/N. Harmon

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

WELCOME

Rev. Nicole Bates, Pastor

One: The Lord be with you.
All: **And also with you.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: For such a time as this, we were made.
 In the image of God – loving, grace-giving, and wise –
 we are created to be the hands, heart, and feet of divinity.

All: **We gather on this Ash Wednesday –
 not because we must, not to puff ourselves up,
 but to begin the journey that leads to resurrection.**

One: Breathe deeply. Settle in and rest.
 Jesus draws us near to the heart of God.

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION (together)

Tune my heart, O God.
Like an old violin, like a worn down piano,
I have been left out in all manners of weather;
I have been left alone for far too long.

So, like a concertmaster with a steady hand, tune me up.
Listen and learn the cracked keys, the broken strings.
Memorize the forgotten intervals that even I did not know.
And then, when I'm ready, when this creaky heart is tuned,
teach me a new song. Amen.

✠HYMN 475 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (stanzas 1, 3)

NETTLETON

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

✠PROMISE OF GRACE

One: Though you and I are imperfect,
we are loved.

All: **Though we hurt one another,
you and I are embraced.**

One: In our human frailties,
we are God's object of extravagant love.

All: **In Jesus Christ,
our wandering hearts are bound to God.
Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

✠Please rise as you are able.

SCRIPTURE READING

Joel 1:1-2, 12-13

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE Wandering Heart: Tune My Heart

SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN Come and Fill Our Hearts

CONFITEMINI DOMINO

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.
 Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo-nus.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!

✠IMPOSITION OF ASHES

You are invited to come forward by the middle aisle, return by the side aisles.

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

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.

✠HYMN 494

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts (stanzas 1, 2, 5)

QUEBEC

✠BENEDICTION

*You are welcome to stay and pray in the Sanctuary as long as you wish.
To not disturb those around you, please depart in silence.*

POSTLUDE Chorale Improvisation on “Mein Jesu, der du mich”

J. Brahms

My Jesus, who leads me through the shadows,
guide my weary steps along the path.
In the quiet of the night, your presence glows;
a beacon of hope, dispelling fear's wrath.
Through life's tempest and trials you remain,
a steadfast anchor in the raging sea.
Your love, a melody that soothes my pain,
a refuge where my restless heart finds joy.
My Jesus, keep me in your arms' embrace,
grant me solace as I seek you.

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NorthPark Presbyterian Church

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