

Welcome to Philadelphia UMC

February 14, 2024



PRELUDE
WELCOME

Rev. Kathy Pryor

CALL TO WORSHIP 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Gerin Knight

L: We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

P: For our sake God put our sin on Jesus, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

L: As we work together with Him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain!

P: For, there is no time like the present; now is the day of salvation!

L: Nothing can stand in your way, not trials or tribulations.

P: So let us humble ourselves and rejoice before God!

OPENING PRAYER Anna Kate Dover

O God, maker of everything and judge of all that You have made. From the dust of the earth, you formed us and from the dust of death You will raise us up. By redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit. Lead us with Your wisdom and grace as we walk through our days with You. We do repent of our sins and desire to lead lives worthy of your calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOSPEL LESSON "The Seven Symbols of Ash" Rev. Kathy Pryor

Loss	(Dirt)	Genesis 3:19
Mortality	(Dried Flowers)	Isaiah 40:6-8
Emptiness	(Charcoal)	Psalms 73:25-26
Weakness	(Matches)	2 Corinthians 12:10
Repentance	(Chalk)	Job 42:6
Shame	(Ash)	Isaiah 2:8-11
Purity	(Soap)	Hebrews 9:13-14

INVITATION TO LENTEN DISCIPLINE Maddox Dover

The early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection with a forty-day season of spiritual preparation. It was a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church.

In this way, the whole congregation was reminded of mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Holy Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

THANKSGIVING over the ASHES Rev. Kathy Pryor
Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES Rev. Kathy Pryor with Grey Vaughn assisting
Genesis 3:19, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."
(You are invited to come forward and receive the imposition of ashes as a sign of our morality and repentance and a reminder of God's gift of eternal life. Feel free to either come or to simply observe.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Psalm 51:1-2, 7-12
Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

OFFERING OF OUR SINS in SILENCE

DECLARATION OF PARDON Rev. Kathy Pryor

L: In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

P: In Jesus Christ, we all have peace. Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT "Come Thy Fount of Every Blessing" UMH #400

BENEDICTION Go in peace, to love and serve God and your neighbor.

*THE POSTLUDE

**Those who are able, please stand.*

Reminders: Masks available for everyone while inside the church buildings

Genesis 3:19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.
Loss (Dirt)

Isaiah 40:6-8 ⁶ A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. ⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever."
Mortality
(Dried Flowers)

Psalm 73:25-26 ²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. ²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
Emptiness
(Charcoal)

2 Corinthians 12:10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.
Weakness
(Matches)

Job 42:6 Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.
Repentance
(Chalk)

Isaiah 2:8-11 ⁸ Their land is full of idols; they bow down to the work of their hands, to what their fingers have made. ⁹ So people will be brought low and everyone humbled— do not forgive them.^[a] ¹⁰ Go into the rocks, hide in the ground from the fearful presence of the LORD and the splendor of his majesty! ¹¹ The eyes of the arrogant will be humbled and human pride brought low; the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.
Shame
(Ash)

Hebrews 9:13-14 ¹³ The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. ¹⁴ How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death,^[a] so that we may serve the living God!
Purity
(Soap)



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