



*We are a joyful, inclusive, compassionate community of faith
seeking to do justice, act mercifully, and walk humbly with our God.
Loving God... Changing Lives!*



OAK GROVE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2200 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington Minn. 55431
952-888-4621 | www.oakgrv.org

February 22, 2023

Ash Wednesday

Noon

Prelude

Call to Worship *(inspired by Joel 2:12–17)*

Return to the Lord with all of your heart, with fasting, with weeping and with mourning. Take a good look at what is going on in your heart.

We will return to God because our God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, loves us without wavering and relents from punishing.

We, too, can relent - from the things that keep us from God. We can make ourselves a living offering to God, a blessing to others.

Let us call everyone together, people of all ages and stages of life, to return to the Lord and be present to all God has done for us.

*Opening Hymn

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

435

*Prayer of Confession *(based on Psalm 51)*

O God, we have turned from you in our hearts, minds and actions. We feel the distance we create when we look away. Whether our turning was deliberate or gradual, conscious or almost unaware, we return to you now with contrite hearts. We open our lives before you and seek your gracious forgiveness. We confess our need to return to you, to turn toward you as we journey in Lent toward Easter and the hope of resurrection.

*Words of Assurance *(based on Psalm 51)*

Through grace and forgiveness, God restores the joy of our salvation and sustains in us a willing spirit. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Scripture

Isaiah 58:1–12 (*The Message*)

Anthem

“There Is a Longing in Our Hearts, O God”

Scripture

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21 (NT: p. 5 | LPNT: p. 6)

Meditation

Imposition of Ashes and Invitation to the Lord's Table

All are welcome to come forward and have your forehead marked with ashes, then proceed to receive the bread and cup. Communion will be by intinction; take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and return to your seat. The juice is non-alcoholic. Gluten free is available as well.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

(^ Father, Mother or Creator)

Our God^ in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Imposition of Ashes, Sharing of the Bread & Cup

"Sign Us With Ashes"

Sign us with ashes, merciful God, children of dust, as to dust we return.
Sign us with ashes, merciful God. Mark us and make us your own.

Prayer following Communion

God of creation, you have fashioned us out of the dust of the earth and given us life and love. May your gifts of ashes, bread and juice help center and renew us for service in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

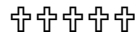
"Be Thou My Vision"

450

***Benediction**

Postlude

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*



Participants in worship today include:

Presiding Pastors: **Bart Roush & Mary Koon;**

Vocalists: **Chancel Choir;**

Organist/Pianist: **Nancy Hauser** | Director of Music: **Judy Cooper;**

Sound, Light, Video: **Greg Johnson, Pierce Flanagan & Ruth Dukelow.**