

# ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 26, 2020 | Ash Wednesday  
Noon

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*responsive*)

Michael Jinkins

We come to worship God as the Lenten season begins, aware of our frailty and our failings.

**We come seeking God's mercy, acknowledging our mortality.**

Having received the waters of baptism, we are marked now with ashes.

**The treasures of this earth do not last; our treasure is in heaven, our heart's true home.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**\*HYMN 415**

"Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy"

RESTORATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

*Psalm 51*

*Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21*

Sarah Chancellor-Watson

HOMILY

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

LITANY OF PENITENCE

Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness: The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives, have mercy on us, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,

**have mercy on us, O God.**

Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**have mercy on us, O God.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

**have mercy on us, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

**have mercy on us, O God.**

Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**have mercy on us, O God.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

**have mercy on us, O God.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**have mercy on us, O God.**

Restore us, O God of our salvation, and show us your steadfast love.

**Turn to us in your mercy and redeem us.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES (*responsive*) "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return"

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, for it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

**That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of our Savior,

**bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.**

**\*HYMN 166**

"Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days"

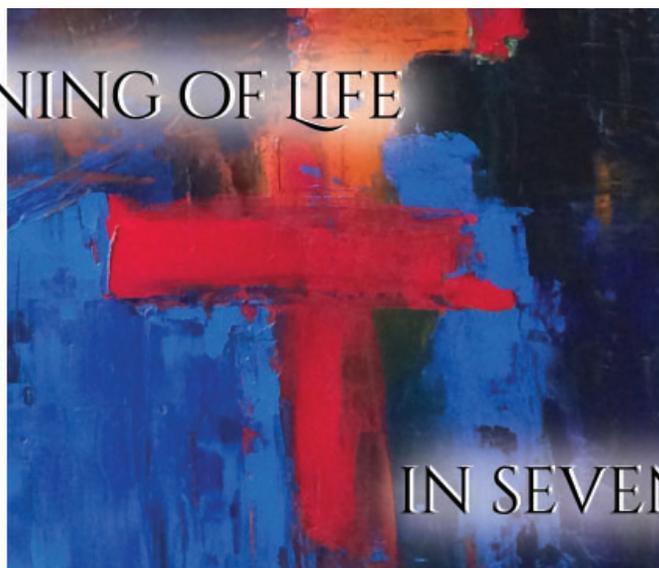
ST. FLAVIAN

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

*Please depart in silence.*

*\*Please stand as you are able*

# THE MEANING OF LIFE



SCAPC  
LENT 2020

## IN SEVEN WORDS

### ASH WEDNESDAY AND THE SEASON OF LENT

**Q: I thought that Ash Wednesday services were only for Roman Catholics?**

A: Ash Wednesday services are important and meaningful for all Christians. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the season of Lent: a 40 day period of discipline and prayer, as we prepare to encounter the joyful mysteries of Easter. Easter was traditionally a time to reaffirm our baptisms and live out our thanksgiving for the gift of our new life in Christ.

**Q: Why do we place ashes on our foreheads?**

A: The imposition of ashes is a symbolic way to remind all believers that we are finite creatures, totally reliant on a gracious God for real and eternal life. The sign of the cross is marked on the forehead to focus our attention inwardly on who we are, as beings created and sustained by God.

**Q: What is the 40-day season of Lent really about?**

A: In the early church, the season was a time of preparation and study for those who were to be baptized at Easter. Baptism was offered only on Easter day each year. Today, Lent is a time to attend especially to our inner lives, often using the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and acts of service for our neighbors. It is not about increasing attention on ourselves, but a time to focus our attention on God's plan for us and our world. During Lent we remember that we are joined to Christ's life and death through our baptism. Our baptism unites us to Christ, a union that we now seek to live into more fully. When we take Lent seriously, the Holy Spirit works through our hearts, minds and practices to focus our attention on our response to Christ's mercy, grace and salvation.

Throughout Lent we will come together in community and decorate the Easter cross with our prayers. Beginning this Sunday, March 1 through Palm Sunday on April 5, the cross will be standing in the hallway outside of the Learning Center on the second floor. You are welcome to come by, write down your prayers on the papers provided, and place them on the cross.

### LENT AND HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

Over the next 40 days of Lent, whether you are giving something up or adding something to your spiritual routine, do not do it alone. We are meant to practice spiritual disciplines in community, for the encouragement and building up of one another. Let us together prepare our hearts for the mysteries and wonder of Easter.

**Sundays in Lent, February 29 - April 5**

Join us for worship at 8:30 a.m. (Chapel) and 10:30 a.m. (Sanctuary); Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. for all ages.

**Palm Sunday Worship, April 5**

8:30 a.m. - Chapel Service with Communion

10:30 a.m. - Sanctuary Service: Chancel Choir and Orchestra to perform Rossini's *Stabat Mater*; All children welcome to join palm procession

**Maundy Thursday Service with Communion, April 9** | 7:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

**Good Friday Service, April 10** | 12:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

**Easter Sunday, April 12** | 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary

Two identical worship services, each beginning with the adorning of the cross with flowers

### ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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