



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1101 Millington Street, Winfield, Kansas 67156
A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

“...For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return.”

Genesis 3:19

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WINFIELD
ASH WEDNESDAY
February 22, 2012

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WE GATHER IN SILENCE

* CALL TO WORSHIP

God calls us away from the tumult of the world that we may focus our thoughts on things that are lasting.

In God's presence we see our lives more clearly; the broken pieces are put back together.

God calls us out of loneliness into a life of community.

Worshiping together, caring about one another, we find out what it means to be truly human.

But God will send us back into the world's confusion and busyness, its brokenness and isolation.

We will go with serenity and joy, strengthened to be God's servants, the bearers of peace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

Wise and powerful God, you have given us your light and truth to guide us through confusion, yet we have relied instead on our human wisdom and have lost our way. You offer to share our burdens and give us your strength, yet we trust in our own efforts and find ourselves exhausted. Bring us back into your presence, O God; overcome our separation from one another and from you. By your Word and Spirit, fill us with the gifts that equip us to meet life's demands, that we may be your people in the world and live in the confidence and joy of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus said, "I am the vine, and you are the branches. Whoever remains in me will bear much fruit."

It is God's love that enables us to grow and bear fruit. We say this to one another in faith and confidence, since nothing can separate us from God's love.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 40:25-31
The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

SECOND LESSON Galatians 2:15-21

SILENT REFLECTION

THE RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

CEREMONY OF THE ASHES

(Please come forward individually to the table and then return to your seat.)

* HYMN *Spirit of the Living God*
LIVING GOD

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

We leave in silence

** Please stand as you are able.*

Acolytes: Suzie Johnson
Worship Assistant: John Halverstadt
Pastor: Rev. Robert K. Wyman

The following is from a reflection by *Mark D. Roberts*

"By the sweat of your brow
will you have food to eat
until you return to the ground
from which you were made.
For you were made from dust,
and to dust you will return."

Genesis 3:19

Gracious God, you created this world as a thing of beauty and perfection. Indeed, you made human beings in your own image. Yet we have tarnished that image through our sin. We have corrupted both ourselves and our world. We are mortals who will die. We are sinners in need of a savior.

O Lord, I experience my "dustiness" in so many different ways. Usually I try to ignore it, or I complain about it. But, today, I am letting the fact of my mortality sink in. I am reminded of how much I need to be saved and set free. I am reminded of how much I need you!

As we begin the season of Lent, may this be, indeed, a time for me to grow in my relationship with you. May I be unafraid to look at myself honestly, especially those parts of my life that are all too "dusty." May I turn to you in this season in a special way, so that I might be prepared to celebrate the amazing news of Good Friday and Easter.

All praise be to you, O God, because you have not abandoned me in my mortality. All praise be to you for the hope that you give. *Amen.*