

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FROM THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM**

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

**HYMN #347** *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

**IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

Those who wish to receive the sign of the cross are invited to come forward by the center aisle and then return on the side aisle. Following the imposition of ashes will be a time for silent prayer and reflection.

**RESPONSE**

Our ancestors in the faith used ashes as a sign of our repentance, a symbol of the uncertainty and fragility of human life. Like them, we have tasted the ashes of hopelessness; we have walked through the ashes of our loss and pain; we have stood knee-deep in the ashes of our brokenness. God of our lives, out of the dust of creation you have formed us and given us life. May these ashes not only be a sign of our repentance and death, but reminders that by your gift of grace in Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, we are granted life forever with you. Amen.

**BENEDICTION**

**PASSING THE PEACE**

**DEPART WITH JOY IN YOUR HEART**



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**Session**

<b>Class of 2022</b>	<b>Class of 2023</b>
Julia Bryan	Sharon Barringer
Gerald Doyle	Janet LaPrade
Neal Gibson	Liz Huband
Sally Sease	Jane Reynolds
Reuben Womack	Michael Whorley

**Class of 2024**

Jim Glass  
Bob Lockridge  
Valerie Rogers  
Anders Sunwall  
Skip Wodke

**Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church**



*Welcoming All  
Serving Christ  
Transforming Lives*



Ash Wednesday  
March 2, 2022

WELCOME

Anghaarad Teague Dees

PRELUDE

*Just As I Am*

arr. Ellson

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Where Christ walks,  
**We will follow.**  
Where Christ stumbles,  
**We will stop.**  
Where Christ cries,  
**We will listen.**  
Where Christ suffers,  
**We will hurt.**  
When Christ dies,  
**We will bow our heads in sorrow.**  
When Christ rises again in glory,  
**We will share his endless joy.**  
There is no other way;  
**He is the only way.**

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Merciful God, your word is our way of truth and life. Create in us hearts that are clean and put your Holy Spirit within us, so that we may receive your grace and declare your praise forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**\*HYMN #836** *Abide With Me*

**INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT**

Scripture Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-14

**LITANY OF PENITENCE**

One: God, you are Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

All: You formed us from the earth and breathed life into our bodies.

You walk among us and offer us your life.

You call us together and breathe your Spirit through us.

One: You have made us in your image.

All: Now remind us that still, we are not God. For we confess that we have forgotten.

One: We have forgotten that it is your kingdom, not ours.

We have forgotten to listen for your voice, so often drowned out by our own. We have forgotten that you call all creation to life and relationship, not rules and regulations.

*Sing: You are the Lord, giver of mercy!*

*You are the Christ, giver of mercy!*

*You are the Lord, giver of mercy!*

One: We pray "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done" and yet we confess,

O Lord, that we are very attached to our own wills.

All: We ask your forgiveness for the times we think we have all the answers. We confess that we have slammed the door, keeping others out, we have stood in the doorway monitoring who comes and goes, and sometimes we have barged right through others' doors, caring little for the consequences. Forgive us, O God, and turn us again to your way. Fill us with your steadfast love, and lead us into life.

~silence~

One: You call, O Lord, sometimes in a storm and sometimes in a silence, through your word written and proclaimed, through the voice of stranger and enemy and friend.

All: I confess that I have not always been an eager student of your word, I have talked more than I have listened in prayer, and that I might not recognize your voice in a crowd. I admit that I have followed other voices, and that my own voice has often been louder than yours. I have stood by the door, but not walked through. I have stood by the door, and kept others from walking through. I have stood by the door, calling people to walk my way rather than yours. Forgive me, O God, and turn me again to your way. Fill me with your steadfast love, and lead me into life.

~silence~

One: You, Lord, are Healer, making wholeness where once there was brokenness. You offer a way of life that carries hope for all the world.

All: Yet we turn our eyes from a dying creation, ignoring your call to care. We admit that we choose what is easy, at the expense of the people and the planet you have created. We confess that we want the green pastures and still waters for ourselves, and we have set up systems in which some waste away while we simply waste. When our doors are unmarked, so only those in the know may enter, when our hearts are firmly locked against anything new, when our habits are closed and therefore shut others out, forgive us, O God, and turn us again to your way. Fill us with your steadfast love, and lead us into life.

One: We stand at the threshold

of community

of grief

of hope

of repentance

of possibility

of fear

of forgiveness

of life.

~silence~

Every day is filled with opportunities both missed and taken—to speak up, to speak out, to keep silent, to listen...to hope, to despair, to heal, to hurt, to help...to come in and to go out and to find pasture.

~silence~

*Sing: You are the Lord, giver of mercy!*

*You are the Christ, giver of mercy!*

*You are the Lord, giver of mercy!*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and toward God, who is faithful and just, loving and compassionate?

All: I turn my mind, my heart, and my life toward God.

One: Will you seek God with your whole heart, and follow where God's Spirit leads?

All: I will, with God's help.

One: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

All: I will, with God's help.

~silence~

One: Your steadfast love endures forever, O God.

All: From dust we came, to dust we will return; but your steadfast love endures forever.

One: We gather in penitence, we gather in confidence; we stand at the threshold of life.

All: Restore us, O God, open the gate and turn us to follow your path again, to proclaim your love that endures forever.

*Sing: You are the Lord, giver of mercy!*

*You are the Christ, giver of mercy!*

*You are the Lord, giver of mercy!*