

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane, Winchester, VA 22602

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www.opequonchurch.org



ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP
A Service of Prayer, Praise, & Penitence
Wednesday, February 14, 2024 – 6:30 PM

† = All who are able, please stand.

Bold print = All in unison.

✧ **CONNECTING** ✧

PRELUDE.....*A Study in Grace*
"Chopin's Etude in E Major" & "Amazing Grace"; Arranged by: Mark Hayes

WELCOME

†GATHERING SONG.....*Come, Now Is the Time to Worship*

[refrain] **Come, now is the time to worship.**
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship.
Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

One day every tongue will confess you are God.
One day every knee will bow.
Still the greatest treasure remains
for those who gladly choose You now. [refrain]

†CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to God with full and prayerful hearts.
We yearn to turn to God.
We mark on our foreheads our need for grace.
We give thanks and praise for mercy. Hear our call and cry to be in your will, O God. Tune our hearts to sing your grace.

†OPENING HYMN 475 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for sings of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!

**Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.**

**Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.**

**O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.**

✧ CONFESSING ✧

CALL TO CONFESSION

In this hour of worship, we listen for the Spirit's voice. With broken and wandering hearts, we remember our faults and fears. And still, the Comforter comes and soothes so that we may feel the power of promised forgiveness. As we journey with Christ and seek strength for the life of faith, may we be reconciled to God, confessing our sins together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, in this time of prayer and praise, we feel our hearts stretching, reaching past our sins to be closer to you. Help us to look deeply into ourselves, that our Lenten penitence might be about more than something we want to give up or even something new we want to take on. Reveal to us the temptations that feed the ills of this world. Rid us of the desire to get more and inspire us to give more. Rid us of our selfish insecurity and guide us in the way of selflessness. In our wandering and brokenness, may we find the kind of healing that brings wholeness to us and others.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Jesus walked on the earth and knows the temptations that lead us away from God. His gift of healing extends even to our sin. His life shows us the transforming power of God’s mercy in a world of hurt and pain. His ceaseless love and grace assure us of our forgiveness.

†RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 695 *Change My Heart, O God*

[refrain] **Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.**

You are the Potter; I am the clay.

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray. [refrain]

†PASSING OF THE PEACE (Please share this prayer with those near you.)

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

✧ RESTORING ✧

BLACK LIGHT DRAMA..... *I'll Give Him My Heart*

LOGOS Pre-K – 5th Grade Worship

NOTE: Please be aware that we do not have permission to print the lyrics or livestream the audio for this song. In an effort to maintain copyright compliance and uphold the rights of the original recording artist, this portion of the service will be muted during the livestream. Thank you for your understanding in this matter. If you wish to listen to the song outside of this service, the song "I'll Give Him My Heart" by The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir is available through multiple music platforms and also on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6yvb4RHjWI>).

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

PSALTER LESSON Psalm 51:1-17

SPECIAL MUSIC *Return to You*
Susan Homan & David Witt

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON 2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES..... "Tune My Heart"

†HYMN..... *Sunday's Palms are Wednesday's Ashes*
**Sunday's palms are Wednesday's ashes as another Lent begins;
 thus we kneel before our Maker in contrition for our sins.
 We have marred baptismal pledges, in rebellion gone astray;
 now, returning, seek forgiveness; grant us pardon, God, this day!
 We have failed to love our neighbors, their offenses to forgive,
 have not listened to their troubles, nor have cared just how they
 live,
 we are jealous, proud, impatient, loving over-much our things;
 may the yielding of our failings be our Lenten offerings.
 We are hasty to judge others, blind to proof of human need;
 and our lack of understanding demonstrates our inner greed;
 we have wasted earth's resources; want and suffering we've
 ignored;
 come and cleanse us, then restore us; make new hearts within us,
 Lord!**

☞ **RETURNING** ☞

VISUAL ARTS..... "Blessing the Dust – A Blessing for Ash Wednesday"
 © Poem Written by Jan Richardson
 LOGOS Youth Worship

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

SPECIAL MUSIC *We Are Dust, You Are God*
 Sanctuary Choir

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES
 MUSICAL CONTEMPLATION *Give Me Jesus*
 Arranged by: Mark Hayes

☞ **TESTIFYING** ☞

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

†CLOSING HYMN No. 676..... *Day Is Done*

**Day is done, but love unfailing, dwells ever here;
shadows fall, but hope, prevailing, calms every fear.
Loving Father, none forsaking,
take our hearts, of love's own making;
watch our sleeping; guard our waking; be always near.
Dark descends, but light unending shines through our night;
you are with us, ever lending new strength to sight:
one in love, your truth confessing,
one in hope of heaven's blessing,
may we see, in love's possessing, love's endless light!
Eyes will close, but you unsleeping watch by our side.
Death may come; in love's safe-keeping, still we abide.
God of love, all evil quelling,
sin forgiving, fear dispelling,
stay with us, our hearts indwelling, this eventide.**

☞ **SENDING/BLESSING** ☞

†CHARGE & BLESSING

†CLOSING Response No. 601 *Amen*
A-men, A-men, A-men.



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**WELCOME to Opequon Presbyterian Church
and to this service of evening prayer and praise
as we begin the season of Lent!**

We hope that you will share in the worship, study, and service of this community of faith throughout the Lenten season, as we “tune our hearts to sing God’s grace.” Let our daily prayer be, “God of my life, may the ashes of this night remind me during this Lenten season of your renewing spirit in me and your continuing call of me to serve, loving you with heart, soul and mind and loving neighbor as self.”

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

David WittPastor
Julia Burkley Associate Pastor
Tracie Martin Parish Associate
Susan Homan Director of Music
William Heavner..... Organist
Sanctuary Choir
Rebekah Witt..... Director of Youth & Young Adults
LOGOS Youth & Children
Susan Ritter & Rebekah Witt.....Livestream

LENT OPPORTUNITIES

- **A LENT DEVOTIONAL** titled, “Wandering Hearts and Beyond,” is available in the Gathering Area and Dell Room for you to take home and use during this new season of Lent. Daily readings focus on keeping our hearts connected to God and one another.
- **LENTEN SERVICE IN THE SPIRIT OF TAIZÉ** will be held this Sunday, February 18, at 6:00 PM in the Memorial Sanctuary.
- **MUSIC AT NOON** will be held each 3rd Wednesday at noon, February 21 and March 20.
- **A LENTEN PRAYER BREAKFAST** will be held on Sunday, February 25, at 9:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall.