

2023 Holy Week Schedule



Maundy Thursday
Worship with the Lord's Supper
April 6th, 7:00 P.M.

Good Friday Service
April 7th
12:00pm

Easter Sunday - April 9th
9:00 A.M.- Contemporary Service (outdoor)
11:00 A.M.- Traditional Service

What is Ash Wednesday?


Traditionally the palms that we waved on Palm Sunday are burned to ashes and brought out for use on Ash Wednesday. On Ash Wednesday, ashes are placed, "imposed", on our foreheads, or on the back of the hand, with a cross-shaped sign, saying, "**You are dust, and to dust you shall return,**" from Gen. 3:19. The ashes remind us of our mortality, the brevity of life, and our need for confession and avoidance of sin and pardon. At the same time, because the sign on our foreheads is cross-shaped, it's meant to remind us of our baptism. "**We who have died in Christ will be raised with him.**" So the ultimate point of Ash Wednesday is to face up to some hard realities of our sinful nature, buoyed by our confident hope in the One who raised Jesus from the dead and who will have the last word over our lives, too.

A graphic for Ash Wednesday featuring a large, dark, cross-shaped mark made of ash on a light, textured background. The words "Ash Wednesday" are written in a large, elegant, serif font across the right side of the cross.

February 22, 2023
6:45 pm

Northwood Presbyterian Church
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www.northwoodpc.org

Chris Curvin - Pastor
Paul Means, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Mission

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ORDER OF WORSHIP ASH WEDNESDAY

February 22, 2023, 6:45 PM

OPENING VOLUNTARY “There Is a Balm In Gilead”
arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Paul Means, Associate Pastor

GATHERING AROUND GOD’S WORD

*CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on Psalm 51: 1-17)*

Leader: O God, have mercy on us, we pray.

People: In your mercy, make us clean from our sins.

Leader: Wipe away every failing and make us new in your sight.

People: Restore us, deliver us, and re-create us, O Lord.

Leader: Today is the day of salvation. Let us worship God!

*HYMN #166 “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” ST. FLAVIAN
(stanzas 1,3,4)

**Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.**

**And through these days of penitence, and through this Passiontide,
yes, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.**

**Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.**

CALL TO CONFESSION Paul Means, Associate Pastor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Mighty Lord, we confess that we are lost without you. Forgive us.
So often we forget that without you we are but dust and ashes
with no hope beyond this life. Forgive us. In our assembly and in
our daily lives keep our hearts and minds fixed on the cross of
Christ and the study of God’s Word to us; remembering that our
hope rests in his death and resurrection. May our journey these
forty days be one of faith in you, study of the Gospels and service
to your world, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(Responsive, from Ezekiel 36:25-27)*

Leader: Hear the promise of God: “I will sprinkle clean water upon
you, and you will be clean from all your uncleanness, and
from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will

give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will re-
move from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of
flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my
statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances.” Friends, the
promises of God are true:

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross
that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good.
Amen.**

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 6:38-40 (NRSV)

MEDITATION “Dining Alfresco”
Chris Curvin, Pastor

RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*Those who wish to participate and receive ashes are asked to come forward
at this time. Ashes acknowledge our mortality; the Sign of the Cross signi-
fies the eternal life of those who believe in Jesus as Savior.*

“O Man, Thy Grievous Sin Bemoan” J.S. Bach

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

*HYMN “Sing Out! We’re Made of Common Dust” CANONBURY
(Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak)

**Sing out! We're made of common dust;
One day, to dust we shall return!
Yet, God, you've placed your mark on us
And so for you our spirits yearn.**

**This gift of ashes we receive
Reminds us we belong to you.
You call us to repent, believe,
and seek your Way in all we do.**

**We sing, O God, of what you give:
This ash reminds us we are yours.
In life we're claimed, in death we live!
In Christ our life, your love endures.**

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*BENEDICTION

**Please stand if you are able.*

Stephanie Carson, Music Director
David Furr, Organist