Ash Wednesday

Vienna Presbyterian Church
A Disciple-Making Community

Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2010
Ash Wednesday Service • 7:30 pm

Please enter in silence to allow a time of reflection and prayer.

Prelude

Responsive Call to Worship

James 4:8 & 10

Pastor:  Come near to God and he will draw near to you.
People:  We come to cleanse our hands and purify our hearts.
Pastor:  Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will lift you up.
People:  We are here to bow down and worship our God.

Hymn #101

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Scripture

Mark 8:27-38

Meditation

A Broken and Contrite Heart

Song of Preparation

Lord, Have Mercy (Kyrie)

All: Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy on me. (Repeat)

Unison Prayer of Confession

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Please request large-print hymnals from ushers.
Assistive listening devices are available in the balcony from the sound technician.
Litany of Confession

Oh God, you search us out and know us, and all that we are is open to you. We confess that we have sinned.

Be merciful, O LORD, for we have sinned.

When we avoid examining ourselves but jump to critique our neighbors:

Be merciful, O LORD, for we have sinned.

When we show great discipline in pursuing success, fame, wealth, leisure, and our interests, but have little energy or enthusiasm for prayer or communion with you:

Be merciful, O LORD, for we have sinned.

When we are addicted to praise and adulation but resist humility and the way of the cross:

Be merciful, O LORD, for we have sinned.

When we become busy and preoccupied with work and neglect the way of love:

Be merciful, O LORD, for we have sinned.

When we build our comforts and pleasures on the sacrifices of others instead of sacrificing our privileges to help others:

Be merciful, O LORD, for we have sinned.

When we demand efficiency, productivity, and instant results, thereby scorning the value of waiting, yearning and suffering:

Be merciful, O LORD, for we have sinned.

When we do church and relationships the way the world does business and relationships:

Be merciful, O LORD, for we have sinned.

When we look for an easier gospel, a lighter cross, a cheaper grace:

Be merciful, O LORD, for we have sinned.

Now hear our private prayers of confession.

Silent Prayer and Prayer

Imposition of Ashes

As the Spirit leads you, please come forward down the center aisle to receive the ashes on your forehead. Return down the side aisles. If you desire, elders are available around the sanctuary for prayer. If you are unable to come forward, you will be served in your pew.

Hymn 76
My Song Is Love Unknown

Prayer

God of compassion, through your Son, Jesus Christ, you reconciled your people to yourself. As we follow his example of prayer and fasting, grant us forgiveness of sins, freedom from guilt, empowering to amend our ways, and courage to walk in newness of life. For the sake of your beloved son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Blessing

Those who wish to fellowship are invited to do so in the Great Hall. Please remain silent in the sanctuary for those who wish to meditate and pray alone or with a pastor or elder.
Announcements

Sacred Rhythms Retreat for Men and Women: Mar. 12-13, 2010

Do you desire deeper levels of change and transformation in your life?

Are you longing for a way of life that works, but don’t know how to make it happen?

Led by author Ruth Haley Barton (at left), this congregational retreat at VPC is designed to help you experience the spiritual practices that lead to deeper levels of spiritual transformation. It will offer a practical, hands-on way to determine what feeds your relationship and grows your soul.

Cost: $30 per person.
Childcare will be provided for children through age 12.

Ruth’s book (pictured), available at Grapevine Books for a pre-retreat sale price, may be purchased in person or online. For book discount, retreat schedule, and to register, visit www.viennapres.org/sacredrhythms

LENTEN EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES AT VPC

Study Colossians for 10 Weeks with a Small Group: For placement in a group that suits your preferences and schedule, and to order materials, contact shannon.jordan@viennapres.org or ext. 123.

* Daily Devotional Guides are available in the narthex, or visit www.viennapres.org/devotionals and sign up to receive them daily by e-mail.
* Resources: The Perkins Memorial Library (2nd floor) has a large selection of books and A/V resources on Colossians on display and available for checkout.

Sunday Morning Adult Classes: Several classes, for all ages and stages of biblical knowledge and interests, meet at both 9:30 and 11 am. See www.viennapres.org/SundayAMclasses. Examples:

* Sacred Marriage class begins Feb. 21 at 11 am in Room 108C. This six-week study will not only strengthen your marriage but help use it to deepen your relationship with God. It is great for newlyweds, as well as those who have been married for years. deb.crumbliss@viennapres.org
* Let’s Talk Teens 12-week class: 9:30 am on Sundays in Rooms 108A & B. Connect with other parents while receiving guidance on building relationships with our teens and encouraging their relationship with God. shannon.jordan@viennapres.org or ext. 123
* Beyond Basics Adult Sunday School: Salvation and predestination, based upon How Now Shall We Live? by Charles Colson. Allen McCarley, leader, 9:30-10:30 am on Sundays, Rooms 203/204

Family Lenten Devotional Materials are available in the Gathering Space. Please help yourself!

“Amos and Hosea: Boundaries, Tough Love and Amazing Grace,” 8-week study for women, begins Tuesday, Feb. 23, 9:30-11:30 am, 3rd-floor Activity Center. shannon.jordan@viennapres.org or ext. 123


Lenten Calendar:

“Benjamin’s Box” Sunday School Activity for K-4th grades: Palm Sunday, Mar. 28, 9:30-10:30 am & 11 am-noon, 3rd floor

Palm Sunday Services:
Mar. 28 at 8, 9:30 & 11 am, VPC sanctuary

Maundy Thursday Service:
Apr. 1, 7:30 pm, VPC sanctuary

Good Friday Service at First Baptist Church:
Apr. 2, 7:30 pm Pete James, preacher
Location: 450 Orchard St. NW, Vienna