

Ash Wednesday

March 2, 7:00 PM



PRELUDE

Aria

Paul Manz, 1989

WELCOME

SONG

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; when I call an - swer me. O

Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; come and lis - ten to me.

WORDS: Psalm 102:1-2, adapt.
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)
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CALL TO WORSHIP

From the shadows of isolation and shutdowns,

**We gather to be with our God,
who brings us the light of hope.**

From the silence of our homes
or in socially distanced worship spaces,

**We gather to be with Jesus,
who will not let anything, now or ever, separate us.**

From the hollowness of our hearts
and with the hunger for human touch,

**We gather to be with the Spirit,
who feeds us for the Lenten journey,
who marks us as God's very own.**

SONG Take, O Take Me As I Am (2x)

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff.

be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line from the first system. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff.

The brevity of this text and tune invite repeated singing, either as a sustained chain of sound or as a sung response in a series of prayers. It offers a more reflective approach to the same theme of self-dedication evident in older hymns such as "Just as I Am" (see no. 442).

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 58:3 – 4

‘Why do we fast, but you do not see?’

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?’

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day,
and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

SILENT REFLECTION

SONG Take, O Take Me As I Am

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall
be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

TEXT and MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1995
Text and Music © 1995 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

TAKE ME AS I AM
7.7.7.4

Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

SILENT REFLECTION

SONG Take, O Take Me As I Am

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall

be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

TEXT and MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1995
Text and Music © 1995 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

TAKE ME AS I AM
7.7.7.4

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,

to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,

and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,

and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,

and your healing shall spring up quickly.

REFLECTION

SONG**Take, O Take Me As I Am (2x)**

The image shows a musical score for the song 'Take, O Take Me As I Am'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment line on a bass clef staff. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.'

TEXT and MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1995
Text and Music © 1995 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

TAKE ME AS I AM
7.7.7.4

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *using the 51st Psalm*

Have mercy on me, O God, in your kindness.

In your compassion blot out my offense.

O wash me more and more of my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

My offenses truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

Indeed you love truth in the heart;
then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.

O purify me, then I shall be clean;
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

BLESSING THE DUST FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

By Jan Richardson

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

SONG Jesus, Remember Me *(sing until everyone has received ashes)*

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The first system of the musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The melody is primarily composed of chords, with some eighth-note patterns. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The second system of the musical score continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It also consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) in the same key and time signature. The lyrics are repeated below the treble staff.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1981; MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1981
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DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Our God is ever merciful. In infinite grace, God made us and called us good. We are good. In infinite compassion, God gave us the Christ, who said, "You are good." We are good. We are already forgiven, even before we asked. Receive and accept the forgiveness of God through the grace of Jesus the Christ.

SONG

Be Still and Know

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first line of the song, and the second staff contains the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (half), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (half). The second staff has a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (half), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (half). The lyrics are: 'Be still and know that I am God.' The first staff has a period at the end of the line, and the second staff has a double bar line with repeat dots.

John Bell, 1989
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Go now, bearing your ashes and picking up your cross to follow Christ on this Lenten journey.

In the name of the One who made us, the One who saves us, and the One who goes with us now, go in peace.

Lenten Wednesday Worship with communion
A 30-minute worship service with testimonies
followed by a continental breakfast in the Great Room

Wednesdays in Lent, 7:00 AM

Sanctuary and livestream

HOLY WEEK

We invite you to visit our Prayer Stations and Labyrinth, designed for all ages, for reflection and prayer throughout Holy Week.

Palm Sunday & Confirmation April 10

Worship 10:00 AM, Sanctuary and livestream

Maundy Thursday April 14

Dinner Church 6:30 PM

Sign up in advance on the church website

Good Friday April 15

Worship 12:00 PM, Sanctuary and livestream

Tenebrae Service 7:30 PM, Sanctuary and livestream

Good Friday Vigil 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Sanctuary



First Presbyterian Church
OF LAKE FOREST