

*Becoming the Beloved Community*

# ***Carter - Westminster United Presbyterian Church***

*Gathering of the People - Worshipping safely at home*

Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021

(For this service, please pour a small amount of olive oil into a tiny dish.  
Also have a paper towel. These will be used in this service.)

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

PRELUDE "Let Us Fly" op. 26 No. 5 Rachmaninoff/Radosavljevic

## PRAYER:

**Gracious God, you created us out of the dust of the earth  
and breathed into us the breath of life.  
By your hand we live and to your hands we return when all our days are done.  
Grant that the awareness of our mortality may lead us not to fear, but to faith.  
In our weakness teach us to look to you for strength,  
in our failures to turn to you and find forgiveness,  
and in our dying to await the gift of everlasting life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. —John Paarlberg**

## TIME OF CONFESSION

Reading: "Life, Death and Frailty"

HYMN "Bless the Lord, My Soul" - Taize

*Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name. Bless the Lord, my soul, who  
leads me into life. (Psalm 104:1)*

## SCRIPTURE: Philippians 3:7-14

**7** But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.  
**8** What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ  
**9** and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.  
**10** I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,  
**11** and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.  
**12** Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.  
**13** Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,  
**14** I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (Debts/Debtors)

HYMN "Bless the Lord, O My Soul" - Taize

*Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name. Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life. (Psalm 104:1)*

ANNOINTING WITH OIL (As guided, anoint with oil. If you are worshipping alone you may choose to make the sign of the cross on your wrist; if you are with others, take turns making the sign of the cross on foreheads. Use the paper towel if/as needed.)

PRAYER (inspired by Psalm 51)

**May God create in us a clean heart,  
a transformed heart,  
a heart that knows and seeks and loves  
the justice and mercy of the Lord.**

**May we accept the gift of salvation,  
not your personal possession to be coveted,  
but His work, accomplished in the destruction of Sin  
on the cross of Jesus Christ.**

**And may we humble ourselves before the Lord,  
coming before Him with a broken spirit,  
a contrite heart  
receiving from His hand  
great compassion  
and unfailing love.**

**We pray this in the name of the One who journeys with us. Amen**

LENT: THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY AHEAD

BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Prelude in E minor

Frederic Chopin