

ST. PETER'S **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



310 North Meadow Street (Grant Park, IL 60940)

Sunday School – 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship – 10:30 a.m.

Church Office – (815) 465-6191

Parsonage phone – (815) 466-4048 Pastor's Cell – (567) 249-5130

Website: www.stpetersgp.org

Email: stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net

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“Jesus said to him, ‘Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’”

Matthew 4:10

Wednesday, February 22nd, 2023

* - In the way you are able, whether in body or in spirit, please rise.

Welcome & Announcements

Dawn Schroeder

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude

“Jesus, By Thy Dear Wounds” (*Bach*)

*Call to Worship

Dawn Schroeder

Leader: You are invited to begin this Lenten season with a time of meditation and reflection as we prepare ourselves for Easter.

People: *We pray that tonight would be a spiritual awakening.*

Leader: Lent can become just that for you. If you begin with humility, confession, and penitence, God will awaken you to joy, forgiveness, and salvation. He promises this to His people!

People: *We worship tonight confident that God will keep His promises and will lead us through our Lenten journey.*

*Prayer of Invocation

We give glory to Your name, O God, for in Your love and wisdom You have called us to repentance – not for punishment, but that we should know eternal joy. So, we worship You in a spirit of penitence and we gather at Your Table in humility, but with a deep and abiding assurance of Your mercy and forgiveness. We pray in the name of Christ Jesus, by whose actions we are saved. Amen.

*Song of Worship

“Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken”

#598

Scripture Reading

Ecclesiastes 3:1-20

Dawn Schroeder

Ash Wednesday Meditation

“Changing Seasons”

Pastor Kyle

Service of Confession, Ashes, & Forgiveness

Confession of Sin and Lord’s Prayer

Imposition of Ashes

(Ushers will dismiss by pews those who voluntarily wish to go forward to receive the sign of the cross in ashes on their foreheads. This ancient act is a gesture of repentance and a powerful reminder about the meaning of the day. Ashes symbolize dust-to-dustness and remind us of the need for cleansing and humility before God.)

A Reading Concerning Darkness and Light

Assurance of Pardon and Forgiveness

Hymn Response “Lord, Speak to Me” *(verses 1 & 4)*

#593

Choir Anthem

“The Savior Is Waiting” *(Carmichael)*

Worshipping God with our Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory “Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior” *(Doane)*

*Response

“Doxology”

#34

The Sacrament of Communion

***Closing Hymn**

“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”

#486

***Benediction**

***Moments of Silent Meditation**

***Postlude**

“There Is A Fountain” *(Mason)*

THE SEASON OF FORTY DAYS

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the season of Lent, the 40 days (not counting Sundays), preceding Easter. The date of Easter falls on the Sunday after the full moon after the vernal equinox, as determined in AD 325. This year, it is April 24th.

“Lent” is from the Anglo-Saxon word for “lengthen,” as in the lengthening days of spring. This season has been observed by Christians since at least the early 2nd century. In Christian Scripture, the number 40 relates to the period spent by Noah in the Ark, the period spent by Israel seeking the Promised Land after the Exodus, and the amount of time Jesus was in the wilderness prior to beginning His ministry.

For us, the season of Lent is when the passion and death of Jesus come into focus. It’s observed as a time for growth in faith, as well as deepening the devotional life of faithful Christians. It’s an invitation to 40 days of renewal and preparation for the Good News of Easter through the disciplines of prayer, self-denial, and rededication.

The term “Ash Wednesday” was coined by Pope Urban II in 1099. Ashes from burning the past year’s Palm Sunday palms were used on this day of repentance to urge Christians to “remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

For us, the “Ash” part of Ash Wednesday represents our sorrow for our sins, our repentance, and our mortality. Receiving the Sacrament tonight reminds us that God’s love is triumphant over sin and death, that He remains “in communion” with us, and that through Christ’s redemptive act on the cross, our mortality is overcome.