

## BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD

\* CLOSING HYMN: Show Me Your Ways (See Music Insert, p. 4)

\* CHARGE AND BLESSING

- Steve Sweet

*All may depart in quietness.*

### WORSHIP NOTE

During Lent we will engage **Paul's Letter to the Galatians** as our devotional. We encourage everyone to participate in a Lenten small group, or to attend the Tuesday (9:15am) and / or Wednesday (7am) morning Bible studies where we will focus on what it means that we are "Bound to Be Free and Free to Be Bound." We will also be reading the book, "Traveling Light" by Eugene Peterson. Copies are available in the Church Office in printed and digital form.

### LENTEN TAKE AWAY - The Carabiner



As you exit the sanctuary tonight we invite you to take a purple carabiner. **Carabiners** are a basic and essential piece of equipment that you use every time you go rock climbing. A carabiner, the work horse of a climber's rack of gear, is simply a strong metal snap-link made of lightweight aluminium or hefty steel that is used to connect all the different parts of the climbing safety system together.

Galatians reminds us that it is "for freedom that Christ has set us free" (Gal. 5:1). It is our hope that this simple object, known as a carabiner, will remind us that Christ calls and welcomes everyone -- male and female, rich and poor, slave and free, Gentile and Jew -- to come, and to dwell in the security of the grace, love, mercy and shalom freely offered. All are invited to explore what it means that we are "Bound to Be Free and Free to Be Bound."

### LENTEN PARAMENTS:

Hand woven by Margie Bell, February 2013.

### WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is a season of preparation and repentance during which we anticipate Good Friday and Easter. The forty days of Lent begin on Ash Wednesday and continue through holy week, not counting Sundays (which are reserved for celebratory worship). The traditional color for the season is purple. Some congregations choose to highlight the contrast between Lent and Eastertide (the period from Easter to Ascension Day or Pentecost or Trinity Sunday) by omitting the singing of "Alleluia" during the Lenten season.



### WHY ASHES?

*In Scripture ashes symbolize frailty or death (Gen. 18:27), sadness or mourning (Esther 4:3), judgment (Lam. 3:16), and repentance (Jon. 3:6). Some traditions also have considered ash a purifying or cleansing agent. All these images are caught up in the church's use of ashes as a symbol appropriate for Lent. Tonight we will receive the sign of the cross on our foreheads (the "imposition"), with these words spoken: "Consider yourself dead to sin and alive in Jesus Christ."*

- *Worship Sourcebook, Section 1: Ash Wednesday*



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## LAGUNA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 6, 2019

7pm, Ash Wednesday Worship & Communion Service



### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

\* The asterisk indicates that the congregation stands.

Words in **BOLD** are spoken or sung by the congregation.

Music may be found in *The Hymnal* or on the **MUSIC INSERT**.

(Take a moment to please SILENCE your Cell Phone. Thank you!)

**We gather in silence and prayerful reflection.**

PRELUDE: "Prayer" from *Jewish Life*, E. Bloch

- Sookyung Bang, Piano | Gloria Traulle, Cello

CALL TO WORSHIP, adapted from Joel 2:15-16; 12-13; Psalm 103:2-4

- Dave Swan

Leader: Blow the trumpet; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly;  
gather all the people — young and old, children and infants.

*Shevarim*, meaning, "Call for Repentance" - played on the *Shofar*

Leader: Even now, declares the LORD, return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting and weeping and mourning. Rend your hearts, and not your garments.  
Bless the LORD and do not forget all his benefits—for he forgives all your iniquity,  
heals all your diseases, redeems your life from the Pit,  
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

WELCOME & INVITATION TO OBSERVE THE LENTEN DISCIPLINES

- Kathy Sizer

Leader: Brothers and Sisters, tonight we begin the ancient journey of Lent—we walk with Christ on the road to Jerusalem, to his death on the cross, and into the joy of Resurrection Sunday. It is a road that the Church has walked for 2000 years. We begin this journey marked with the sign of ashes—an ancient sign that speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life—a sign of our heartfelt repentance and our desire to place our trust and hope in God alone. I invite you, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent, by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, giving, gathering in worship, reading and meditating on the Word of God.

OPENING PRAYER

- Kathy Sizer

\* HYMN: God of Day and God of Darkness (See Music Insert, p. 1)

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: Speak, O Lord (See Music Insert, p. 2)

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 1:1-5; 5:13-15 (See page in the New Testament) - Steve Sweet

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE: **“FREE TO LIVE”** - Steve Sweet

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYER - Kathy Sizer

### IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*Our ushers will invite all who would like, to come forward a row at a time to receive the ashes.  
If you are not able to come forward, please let one of our ushers know and we will come to you.  
Return to your seat in prayerful silence and meditation.*

Music: “Lenten Carol,” M. Robinson - Chancel Choir

*The days are long, the nights are longer still, Lord grant to us the will to walk these forty days.*

*The way is hard, the end is harder yet.*

*Lord, help us not forget to mix our cries for help with praise.*

*Glory to the Son, who walks these forty days.*

*Walks beside God’s people and walks to bring them grace.*

*Let us voices raise unto the Lamb who saves people whom he shepherds by going to the grave.*

*We walk as one, and yet we walk alone,*

*Lord, can it be your home lies through this door of death?*

*And may our journey bring your death to mind,*

*Lord, grant that we may find renewed life through the Spirit’s breath.*

*As we journey through this season of Lent, as our bodies weary and our spirits are spent,  
grant us strength to face whatever may be. Grant to us the grace to witness calvary.*

*Though private burdens bring our spirits low,  
give us the strength to grow from winter’s chill to spring.*

*Amid life’s storms and cares that weigh us down,*

*give us your grace profound and teach our wounded souls to sing.*

*Glory to the Lamb, who dies to set us free. Dies a man of sorrows, for our iniquity.*

*Walk with us we pray whatever may be and grant to us the grace to witness Calvary.*

CONFESSION, adapted Psalm 51, selected verses - Kathy Sizer

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions.  
Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin.

People: **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.  
You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.**

Leader: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

(Brief Silence)

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

- Kathy Sizer

Leader: Hear the good news: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

People: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Sung) Kyrie Eleison, Getty (See Music Insert, p. 3)

**As we come before you with the needs of our world,  
we confess our failures and our sin.**

**For our words are many and our deeds have been few;  
fan the fire of compassion once again.**

(CHORUS) **Kyrie eleison, have mercy. Christe eleison, have mercy.  
Kyrie eleison, have mercy. Christe eleison, have mercy.**

**When the cries of victims go unheard in the land,  
and the scars of war refuse to heal.**

**Will we stand for justice to empower the weak  
‘til their bonds of oppression are no more? (CHORUS)**

**Lord, renew our vision to be Christ where we live,  
to reach out in mercy to the lost;  
for each cup of kindness to the least in our midst,  
is an offering of worship to you, Lord. (CHORUS)**

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## OFFERING INVITATION

Musical Offering: “Make Me More Free,” D. Jernigan - Praise Team

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION - Steve Sweet

INVITATION TO THE TABLE - Steve Sweet

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING - Kathy Sizer

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Unison)

**Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;**

**for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*If you are unable to come forward, please let one of the ushers know and servers will come to you.  
Gluten-Free bread is available. Ushers will bring us a row at a time.*

Music: “Broken Vessels,” Houston, Myrin - Praise Team