



WELCOME

WILTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 17, 2021

ASH WEDNESDAY

We are glad that you found us and that you are here. We are a progressive, welcoming and inclusive congregation seeking both to know Christ and to make Christ known to people from all walks of life. We pray that we will become better acquainted with you.

MEDITATIVE THOUGHT

What if the deeper you know our own brokenness,
the deeper you can experience your own belovedness?

Anne Voskamp

PRELUDE

Zachary Wright

INVITATION TO LENT

Rev. Shannon White

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Caleb Sharp

Leader: As we enter into this sacred time, put away the pressures of the world that ask us to perform, to hide from one another, to put on brave fronts. Let us silence the voices that ask us to be perfect. This is a community of compassion and welcoming.

All: **We bring all that we are and all that we yet can be, to this safe and sacred place.**

OPENING HYMN

There's A Wideness in God's Mercy (verse 1)

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lily Archibald

Spirit and breath of life, before you we recognize that our spirits are not fully alive. We have succumbed at times to despair; we have been lifeless, not lively, in our faith. Like dry bones, we are brittle and break under pressure. Breathe your Spirit of power into us, that our faith may be active, in word and deed, and that your name may be glorified. Amen

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.
Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.
“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.
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?

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;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.
The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Unison Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

ASH WEDNESDAY MESSAGE AND RITUAL

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN

There's A Wideness in God's Mercy (verse 2)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*** We thank our Confirmation Class for assisting in worship leadership today ***



WILTON PRESBYTERIAN STAFF

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SESSION	DEACONS
<u>Class of 2021</u> Buck Burnaman Forrest Close Berta Hull (Clerk) Jason Rice	<u>Class of 2021</u> Sonny Kern Dee King Tom Schneider Becky Shroyer Cathy Thomas
<u>Class of 2022</u> Patty Connor John Stewart Jock Wright	<u>Class of 2022</u> Rachelle Bernabei Sally Carta Virgil Roberson Liz Archibald
<u>Class of 2022</u> Cathy Ratcliffe Reshan Richards Alison Wood	<u>Class of 2023</u> Patti Dormer Julie Stein Ann White Marianne Wilson



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