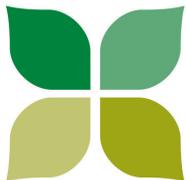


ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 10, 2016



THE PEOPLES CHURCH

200 W. Grand River Ave. | East Lansing, MI 48823
517.332.5073 | ThePeoplesChurch.com

ALL ARE WELCOME | *Whether you are young or old, rich or poor, doubtful or hopeful ... no matter where you are in your faith journey, YOU are welcome here. For those with children, be assured that noises and wiggling are signs of a church that is alive and growing; your entire family is welcome in worship.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prayer of Preparation (Psalm 51:10)

Please consider praying this prayer silently as a way of preparing yourself for worship.

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD,
AND PUT A NEW AND RIGHT SPIRIT WITHIN ME.
AMEN.

Call to Worship (Based on Joel 2:12-13)

Leader: Even now, declares the Lord,
return to me with all your heart,

People: with fasting and weeping and mourning.

Leader: Rend your hearts, and not your garments.

**People: Return to the Lord your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and filled with compassion and love.**

Welcome to The Peoples Church

Worship is both personal and communal, formal and informal, intimate and casual. Here at The Peoples Church, we recognize that people come to worship God in both joy and pain, faith and doubt, with laughter and with tears. Our worship tries to reflect a desire both for meditation and celebration. Please know you are invited to participate in any and all ways you feel led. Our songs, prayers, words and actions are the works of imperfect people trying to worship a perfect God.

Gathering Hymn (Please stand if able.)

“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

No. 22

Prayer of Confession

God, this is a hard time. The focus of Lent is on the pain and suffering of Jesus and our own need for penitence. It is a time of gathering darkness. But we would rather skip this part and go straight to Easter.

We would rather ignore the suffering — in you and in the world — and avoid the hard work of true self-examination. Forgive us for wanting this to be bright and painless and easy, when we know that Jesus did not take the easy way, but chose the path of the Cross.

Teach us the true meaning of penitence, so that we use this Lenten season to humbly seek a clean heart and a renewed spirit. We pray in the name Jesus Christ. Amen.

Response

"Hear the Good News of Salvation" (Verse 1)

No. 441

**Hear the Good News of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.
Such a great kindness! Such a great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.
Jesus Christ, how much a I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin!
How I love you! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.**

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 32:1-5

(Pew Bible Page 553, Large Print Page 801)

Hymn

"How Blest, Those Whose Transgression"

No. 446

New Testament Reading

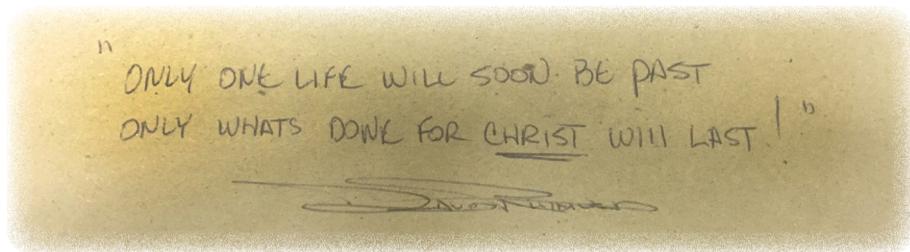
Mark 9:30-37

(Pew Bible Page 1,012, Large Print Page 1,539)

Sermon

"Only One Life Will Soon Be Past . . ."

Rev. Drew Filkins



Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

(During the pastoral prayer there will be a time to offer prayers of joy and concern, voiced aloud or silently for and on behalf of others.)

Our Father who 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Lenten Discipline

Imposition of Ashes (Please come forward to receive the sign of ashes.)

Benediction (Please stand if able.)

Benediction Response

(Please stand if able.)

"Christ Be Beside Me" (Verse 1)

No. 702

**Christ be beside me; Christ be before me;
Christ be behind me, king of my heart.
Christ be within me; Christ be below me;
Christ be above me, never to part.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Offertory plates are located near the exits. Thank you for your generosity.

