



# ASH WEDNESDAY

## FEBRUARY 10, 2016



**THE PEOPLES CHURCH**

200 W. Grand River Ave. | East Lansing, MI 48823  
517.332.5073 | [ThePeoplesChurch.com](http://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.

**Prelude** "Create in Me A Clean Heart, O God"

### **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**

"Forgive our Sins As We Forgive"

**No. 444**

## *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**

**Old Testament Reading**      Psalm 32:1-5

Blessed is the one  
whose transgressions are forgiven,  
whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the one  
whose sin the Lord does not count against them  
and in whose spirit is no deceit.

When I kept silent,  
my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.  
For day and night  
your hand was heavy on me;  
my strength was sapped  
as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you  
and did not cover up my iniquity.  
I said, “I will confess  
my transgressions to the Lord.”  
And you forgave  
the guilt of my sin.

They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."

He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

### ***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.)

### ***Passing the Peace of Christ***

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

---