

✻ ENTRANCE ✻

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

(Matthew 18:20^{NRSV})



Prelude

***Call to Worship (Responsively)**

Gather the people, young ones and old, blow the trumpet, sound the alarm,

For all are welcome here. For God is present now!

Bless this worship and the holy season before us,

For God calls us to this time and place.

Return, refocus, remember, renew,

For God invites us to join hearts and lives, repent and to be reconciled with one another.

***Opening Prayer**

***Opening Hymn** "Holy, Holy, Holy"

#68 BH

***Confession of Sins (in Unison)**

Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us your love and grace. You know the storms of our lives, the clouds of our sin, the gloom of our sorrow. Grant us your love and grace. Return to us now. Gather us in. Grant us your love and grace. We are called to pray and we pray for a renewed spirit, and a heart of love. For grace where we are in need of love..., (Silence). For forgiveness where we have sinned..., (Silence). For renewal where our spirits are dying..., (Silence). For restoration where we are disconnected from the vine of life.

***Words of Assurance**

God is grace and mercy, forgiveness and love. God's anger is slow, but God's love is swifter than arrows and deeper than the sea. Love and forgiveness are ours this day.

✻ PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD ✻

Old Testament Reading Joel 2:1-2, 12-17;

Hymn "Just As I Am, Without One Plea" v. 1,2; #435 BH

New Testament Reading 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10;

Hymn "Just As I Am, Without One Plea" v. 3,4; #435 BH

Gospel Reading Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21;

Hymn "Just As I Am, Without One Plea" v. 5,6; #435 BH

✻ RESPONSE TO THE WORD ✻

PREPARING FOR ASH WEDNESDAY AND FOR LENT.

Hymn "Are You Washed in the Blood" #229 BH

Concerns and Prayers/Lord's Prayer

***Affirmation of Faith** Apostles' Creed

***Response** "Glory Be to the Father"

Call to the Imposition of Ashes

As you are ready, come forward to receive a blessing of ashes. May these ashes be a symbol of our willingness to put to death all the things that are killing us. From the ashes, receive anew God's Easter promise of mercy and love.

Thanksgiving over the Ashes

Merciful God,

you ask us to mend our hearts, not our clothing. In the dust of these ashes, we come face-to-face with the shortcomings of our own humanity. Help us resist the temptation to wash away the dust, for we know that it was from the dust itself that you created us. Wash our hearts and mark us with ashes on the outside, that we might be made clean on the inside. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES (People are invited forward to receive the sign of the cross in ashes)

"Repent, believe the Gospel and be reconciled to God."

"For dust you are and to dust you shall return."

✻ SENDING FORTH ✻

***Closing Hymn** "The Old Rugged Cross" #230 BH

***Benediction**

**As you leave this place, share your alms and offerings quietly and in secret,
that God may bless others with the gifts of your love and grace.**

**As you go forth in the world, share your love quietly and abundantly,
that God may bless others with the gifts of your love and kindness. Amen**

Postlude

In the Life of *STONEGATE* Family

Thursday, February 19, 2015

10:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study

Friday, February 20, 2015

8:00 a.m. Friday's Morning Group
Yard and Building Work

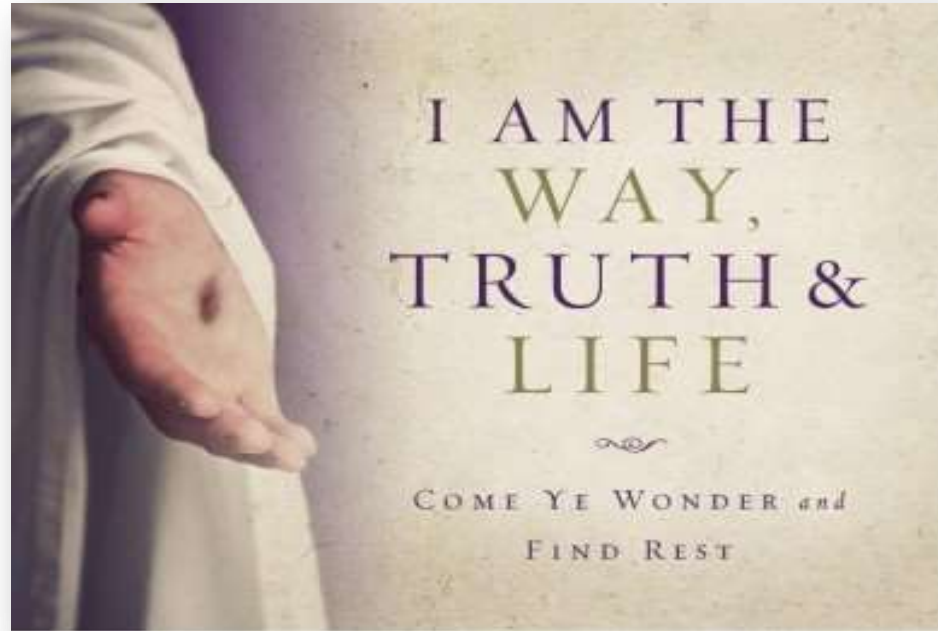
Friday, February 20, 2015

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. CHOCOLATE EXTRAVAGANZA

Bring Your Family & Friends

Sunday, February 22, 2015,

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
10:45 a.m. Sunday Worship Service



THEME IDEAS

Renewing our spirits and returning to God reconnects our hearts to the heart of Christ. Today's worship is a time for spiritual renewal, based on honest reflection and introspection, in the hope that we may purge those things (memories, attitudes, past actions, current behaviors) that separate us from God. Ashes and dust, sorrows and sins, storm clouds and gloom . . . This day is often mantled with a sense of gray. Yet gray gives way to grace when we allow Christ to breathe new life into our tired lives. Come, let us open our hearts to God's mercy and love. From this honest reflection, we confess and empty ourselves of our sins, so that God may refill and refuel our spirits with love, mercy, and grace.



STONEGATE CHURCH

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN

Ash Wednesday Service, 6:30 p.m.; February 18, 2015



✠ WORSHIP LEADERS ✠

, Pastor
, Pianist
, Singing
, Welcome and Announcements



* Please rise as you are able
#156 RH = Page 156 Red Hymnal
#156 BH = Page 156 Blue Hymnal
Back Cover BH = Back Cover Blue Hymnal



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