

✠ ENTRANCE ✠

*Gathering* - The people gather to worship the true and living God. Welcome friends. We are genuinely pleased to have you worship here today. Lift up your voice and open your heart to God and all of us will be blessed. The prelude signals the beginning of worship.

**Prelude**

**\*Call to Worship (responsively)**

Come, young and old. Sanctify yourselves before the Lord.

**We gather to hear the word of God.**

Come, and do not delay. Return to God.

**We gather to be in the presence of God.**

Come, cry out to God. Trust in God's mercy.

**We gather to find the renewal of our spirit, as we acknowledge our failings before God.**

**\*Opening Prayer**

**\*Opening Hymn** "Are You Washed in the Blood"

#229 BH

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

Oh God, this is a hard time. The focus of Lent is on the pain and suffering of Jesus and our own need for penitence. 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 may that we use this Lenten season to humbly seek a clean heart and a renewed spirit. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**\*Words of Assurance**

In the blazing light of God's grace, Jesus touches us to say, "Get up and do not be afraid."  
In the name of Christ, all is forgiven. Amen.

✠ PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD ✠

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

**Hymn** "Just As I Am, Without One Plea" v. 1,2,3: #435 BH

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

**Hymn** "Just As I Am, Without One Plea" v. 4,5,6: #435 BH

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



✠ RESPONSE TO THE WORD ✠

**Concerns and Prayers/Lord's Prayer**

**\*Affirmation of Faith** Apostles' Creed

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

**Call to the Imposition of Ashes**

Even now it is not too late to return to the Lord. When we come before God with a contrite heart, mercy and love await us. Now is the acceptable time to offer our hearts to God. Now is the day of salvation. We cannot wait until we are worthy to approach the throne. The ashes remind us that we will never be worthy. But the cross that waits at the end of this journey proclaims that even imperfect mortals like us are worthy of God's love and salvation. Here is the delicious irony: as we wear the ashes of mortality and sin on our foreheads, we are proclaiming God's victory over these very elements. Truly, now is the acceptable time to offer our hearts to God.

**Thanksgiving Over the Ashes**

Merciful God,  
you ask us to rend 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.**

**Hymn** "Let us Break Bread Together"

#399 BH

**The Celebration of the Holy Communion**

- Invitation to the Lord's Table
- Words of Institution
- Prayer of Thanksgiving
- Partaking of the Elements
- Post Communion Prayer



SENDING FORTH

\*Closing Hymn

"The Old Rugged Cross"

#230 BH

\*Benediction

Go on mountaintops and in deep valleys.
Walk in light and truth.
See the light of Christ in every face you meet.
Be the light of Christ to all you meet. Amen.

Postlude



In the Life of our STONEGATE Family

Sunday, March 9, 2014

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
10:45 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
Noon - Church Session Meeting

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

- 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Supper - All Are Invited
Bible Study follows supper

Thursday, March 13, 2014

- 10:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study

Friday, March 14, 2014

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

Sunday, March 16, 2014

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

THEME IDEAS

Our Ash Wednesday scriptures focus upon repentance and preparation.

Ash Wednesday is the invitation to a forty-day Lenten journey—a journey of preparation that culminates in the Triduum (the three days beginning on Holy Thursday) and finally in the Easter celebration. The call to repentance is the beginning of this journey. Creating an atmosphere of reflection and devotion, serves the intent of Ash Wednesday, as does providing time and space for individual reflection and confession.



STONEGATE CHURCH

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN

Sunday Worship Service 10:45 am

Ash Wednesday - March 5, 2014

WORSHIP LEADERS

- , Pastor
, Elder
, Pianist
, Singing
, Children's Time
, 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



17101 North Western, Edmond, Oklahoma 73083-3973, P.O. Box 3973

www.stonegatecpc.org