

**NATRONA HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**An Evangelical Presbyterian Church**

The Rev. Richard Harbaugh

Order of Worship, Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 7 PM

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*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9*

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GATHERING TO WORSHIP THE RISEN CHRIST

THE WELCOME

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let all the inhabitants of the earth tremble, for the Lord is near!

**PEOPLE: HAVE MERCY UPON US, O LORD.**

Leader: The night of darkness is upon us—we await in fear.

**PEOPLE: HAVE MERCY UPON US, O LORD.**

Leader: Spare your people, O Lord. Heal and prepare us for service.

**PEOPLE: LET YOUR LOVE AND HEALING MERCIES FLOOD THROUGH US, LORD.  
AMEN.**

THE HYMN

**"It Is Well with My Soul"**

**No. 493**

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: The Lord is compassionate and gracious.

**PEOPLE: HAVE MERCY ON ME, O GOD AND BLOT OUT MY TRANSGRESSIONS.**

Leader: The Lord is slow to anger.

**PEOPLE: WASH AWAY ALL MY INIQUITY.**

Leader: The Lord abounds in love.

**PEOPLE: CLEANSE ME FROM MY SIN.**

Leader: He will not always accuse.

**PEOPLE: AS FAR AS THE EAST IS FROM THE WEST, SO FAR HAS HE REMOVED OUR  
TRANSGRESSIONS FROM US.**

Leader: He will not harbor his anger forever.

**PEOPLE: YOU TREAD OUR SINS UNDERFOOT.**

Leader: He does not treat us as our sins deserve.

**PEOPLE: YOU HURL ALL OUR INIQUITIES INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA.**

Leader: God does not repay us according to our iniquities.

**PEOPLE: YOU SWEEP AWAY OUR OFFENSES LIKE A CLOUD, OUR SINS LIKE THE  
MORNING STAR.**

Leader: Though our sins are scarlet,

**PEOPLE: THEY SHALL BE AS WHITE AS SNOW.**

Leader: Though they are red as crimson,

**PEOPLE: THEY SHALL BE LIKE WOOL.**

Leader: Cleanse me and I will be clean,

**PEOPLE: WASH ME, AND I WILL BE WHITER THAN SNOW.**

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God.

**PEOPLE: REMEMBER MY SINS NO MORE.**

Leader: If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, who could stand?

**PEOPLE: BUT WITH YOU, LORD, THERE IS FORGIVENESS.**

Leader: As a loving and kind Father has compassion on his children,

**PEOPLE: SO THE LORD HAS COMPASSION ON THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.**

Leader: Jesus Christ personally bore our sins in His body on the cross. We are dead to sin and have been resurrected with Him to all that is both good and holy. Our sins are no more, mere ashes in the fire of His love! Amen.

THE SCRIPTURE READING

**Exodus 20:8-11**

THE MESSAGE

**"Sabbath Rest, Why?"**

—The Rev. Richard Harbaugh

THE HYMN

**"There Is a Redeemer"**

**No. 206 vs. 2**

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

THE COMMUNION SERVICE

The Gracious Invitation

The Words of Institution

The Administration of the Elements

The Prayer of Appreciation

THE ASHES

Leader: On Ash Wednesday, we publicly show we want to "bring to ashes" those things in us that are not good. By confessing our sins and having them burned to ashes we acknowledge ourselves as sinners determined to grow into better persons. We keep in mind that the goal is new life just as Jesus

experience it in His resurrection. To share in new life, we must die to the old. The ashes remind us that we join with Jesus in his ministry, death, and resurrection.

#### THE INVITATION

Pastor: Anyone who wishes to make the mark of the cross on their person is invited to come forward at the end of the service and touch finger to ash in the dish, smearing the ash on their forehead or hand.

#### THE BLESSING OF THE ASHES

Pastor: Let us pray. God our Creator, you sent your beloved Son Jesus to be our brother. The burden of your love for humankind led him to accept death, even death on a cross, so that all people might live. Though we have been buried with Christ and raised up to new life of freedom, we have not lived fully as your sons and daughters; your kingdom of love is still not fully manifest in us. Bless these ashes. Grant that this may be a symbol of our inner renewal, a sign of our change and growth in Christ. Amen.

#### THE BENEDICTION

Leader: Go in peace!

**ALL: THE GRACE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST BE WITH US ALL.**

