



Everyone is welcome here

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BINGHAMTON

DO JUSTICE • LOVE KINDNESS • WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD



Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024
12:30pm *and* 6:00pm

Our worship service livestreams on our YouTube Channel: [upcbgm.org/youtube](https://www.upcbgm.org/youtube)

Phone in on Zoom: (+1) 646-558-8656, Meeting ID 865 274 8433, passcode 42456

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Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

One: This Lent, God is inviting us to have our small-time plans and silly flurries of activity interrupted by the Kingdom of Heaven breaking into earth here and now.

All: And I'm wholeheartedly inviting God to interrupt me.

One: To interrupt our discontent and anxiety with an overwhelming thankfulness.

All: To interrupt my noise and chaos with God's peace and rest.

One: To interrupt our quiet, kept-to ourselves faith with wide open doors and hearts to share the love of Jesus.

All: To interrupt my callousness and cynicism with fresh eyes of compassion and a heart of mercy.

One: To interrupt our busywork with an awareness of the work of the Holy Spirit in our life together.

All: To interrupt my words with God's Words, my will with God's Will, my plans with God's Plan.

GATHERING MUSIC "Beautiful Things"

youtu.be/1spkhp41ig4

All this pain: I wonder if I'll ever find my way?

I wonder if my life could really change, at all?

All this earth: Could all that is lost ever be found?

Could a garden come out from this ground, at all?

Refrain: You make beautiful things;

you make beautiful things out of the dust.

You make beautiful things; you make beautiful things out of us.

All around, hope is springing up from this old ground.

Out of chaos life is being found, in you. [*Refrain*]

You make me new, you are making me new.

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SCRIPTURE LESSON *Romans 12:1-2a*, The Message

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life — your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life — and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out.

REFLECTIONS “Holy Interruptions”

Rev. Kimberly P Chastain

PRAYER

by Walter Brueggeman

Our times are in your hands:
But we count our times for us;
we count our days and fill them with us;
we count our weeks and fill them with our busyness;
we count our years and fill them with our fears.
And then caught up short with your claim,
Our times are in your hands!
Take our times, times of love and times of weariness,
Take them all, bless them and break them,
give them to us again,
slow paced and eager,
fixed in your readiness for neighbor.
Occupy our calendars,
Flood us with itsy-bitsy, daily *kairoi*,
in the name of your fleshed *kairos*. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES (*responsive*)

by Rev. Thom M. Shuman

One: Just yesterday, it seems, the palms were fresh and green,
held tight in hands as we reenacted Jesus's entry into
Jerusalem. But then they dried, shriveled, became almost
too fragile to touch, until we burned them into the ashes
for this service.

(*continued*)

By the grace of our God, with the Spirit resting upon them, they are mixed with oil and placed on our heads or hands, the dust of life resting upon us as a sign that by sharing the gifts of peace, reconciliation, justice, and generosity, we will live into the people we long to become.

All: As we are touched with this mark, God of all moments, remind us that just as you shaped humanity from earth's dust, so, from the ashes of repentance and denial, that grace which is gifted to us through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, will shape us into faithful followers. Amen.

You are invited to move toward the worship table, where the pastors will offer you the opportunity to be marked with ash or anointed with oil, either on your hand or your forehead, and return to your seat.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

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Pastors Rev. Kimberly P Chastain and Rev. Becky Kindig
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