

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

March 9, 2011

7:30 p.m.

### Prelude and Acolyte

*As we gather, let us come together in silence and meditation on:*

**“Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit” Psalm 51:12**

### Call to Worship

Psalm 51

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;

People: **according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**

Leader: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, cleanse me from my sin.

People: **For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.**

Leader: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

People: **wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

People: **and put a new and right spirit within me.**

Leader: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

People: **and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

All: **Let us worship God and be joyful.**

### Opening Hymn “Breath On Me Breath of God” # 461

### Prayer of Confession

Have mercy upon us and hear our prayer, O God. We have failed to live in the light of your covenant. You set your rainbow above us, yet clouds of unbelief darken our days. Distrust wells within us; fear, not hope, is our watchword. Your beloved bids us follow, but we are slow to obey. Without your grace, we are fruitless and inert. In mercy renew us and bring us to life, through Jesus Christ.

### Moment of Silent Prayer

### Assurance of Forgiveness

\* Gloria Patri

Red Hymnal # 546

Old Testament Lesson

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

New Testament Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10

### Meditation – “Commending Ourselves To God”

#### Affirmation of Faith *(A responsive sharing of the Apostle’s Creed)*

Leader: The creeds of our church stand as testaments to the faith which has been passed down to us from our ancestors. Tonight we renew our commitment to our God and accept, once again, our own personal call to discipleship. God calls us to be a part of a community as well. Therefore, let us join together as a community to affirm what we believe.

People: ***I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.***

Leader: It is God who created all things and who breathed life into each one of us.

People: ***And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.***

Leader: It is Christ who willingly hung on the cross that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good. It is through His death and resurrection that we are adopted into the family of God.

People: ***I believe in the Holy Ghost.***

Leader: It is the Spirit that guides us and directs us to follow God’s will. It is the Holy Spirit that teaches us all new things.

People: ***I believe in the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.***

Leader: It is these gifts from God – the church, the community and our salvation – that serve as constant witnesses to the love that God has for each one of us. Therefore, as children of God, and brothers and sisters in Christ, we affirm our faith in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Let the people of God say...

All: ***Amen and Amen!***

### Closing Hymn “The Old Rugged Cross” # 260

### Imposition of Ashes

*(Congregation is invited to come forward and receive the imposition of ashes. This is a time of silent prayer and meditation.)*

\* Acolyte and Benediction

\* Depart in Silence

*\*Signifies Congregation to Stand*



### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*To disciple others in Christ by sharing the gospel through our words and actions,*

*To nurture existing Christians into a mature faith by worship, fellowship and Christian education,*

*To prayerfully serve God by worshiping Him through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit,*

*And to serve our neighbor as Jesus taught us.*

## Providence Presbyterian Church

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