

**Parkwoods United Church
Ash Wednesday Service
February 21, 2012 7:00 p.m.**



Ministers:	All the people
Pastor:	The Rev. Dr. Randy Naylor
Minister Emeritus:	The Rev. Robert K. Shorten
Director of Music:	Yvette Gudas
Office Administrator:	Glory Wigle

**85 Parkwoods Village Drive
Don Mills, Ontario M3A 2X9
Tel. (416) 447-5519 Fax (416) 447-6138
e-mail – office@parkwoodsunitedchurch.ca**



Wheelchair Accessible



Equipped For Hearing Impaired

www.parkwoodsunitedchurch.ca



**Parkwoods United Church
Tuesday, February 21, 2012
Ash Wednesday Service**

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call To Worship

*** Hymn "To Show by Touch and Word" # 427**

Opening Prayer

Entering into a Time of Confession

The First Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

(using the Kyrie found in Voices United at page 946)

**Merciful and generous God,
we come before you, conscious of our sins.
We are ashamed
and sorry for the wrong we have done
and the good we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we have not even loved ourselves very well.
God of mercy, forgive us. R.**

We know that your beautiful world
suffers from greed and injustice:
children have only tears for food,
and the forests groan in distress.
And we know that our comfort, our standard of living,
depends on the suffering of others
and the rape of the planet.

These things disturb us,
yet, we confess that we have not protested as we ought,
or rushed to combat these evils as we should.
Make us braver, Lord, to speak out and act.
God of mercy, forgive us. **R.**

**Loving God, you call us to be your church,
a witness to the power of love in the world,
but even here, we have not been faithful:
we have not known how to work out
our differences without painful conflict,
and we have held on to our anger
and hurt far too long.
Set us free from these old wounds
and draw us together into one community,
dedicated to your purpose.
God of mercy, forgive us. **R.****

Now, merciful God, we come to you in silence:
you already know the wrong that weighs us down,
the guilt we cannot shake.
We ask you to take them from us now
and set us free to begin a new life.

Silence

God of mercy, forgive us. **R.**

Scripture Joel 2: 1-2. 12-17 & Reflection

The Second Prayer of Confession *(Responsive)*

From lack of reverence for truth and beauty;
from a calculating or sentimental mind;
from going along with mean and ugly things;
Holy One, deliver us.

From cowardice that dares not face truth;
laziness content with half-truth;
or arrogance that purports to know it all;
Holy One, deliver us.

From artificial life and worship;
from all that is hollow or insincere;

from trite ideals and cheap pleasures;
from mistaking vulgarity for humour;
Holy One, deliver us.

From being pompous, or rude;
from cynicism about others;
from intolerance or cruel indifference;
Holy One, deliver us.

From being satisfied with things as they are,
in the church or in the world;
from failing to share your outrage about injustice;
Holy One, deliver us.

From selfishness,
self-indulgence,
or self-pity;
Holy One, deliver us.

From token concern for the poor,
for lonely or loveless people;
from confusing faith with good feeling,
or love with wanting to be loved;
Holy One, deliver us.

For everything in us that may hide your light;
Holy One, light of life, forgive us. Amen.

Scripture Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21 & Reflection

The Third Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
grant us your peace.**

The Affirmation of the Ashes

These ashes remind us of our frailty
and our mortality.

The mark we bear calls us
to walk the way of the cross.

**God our creator,
you have formed us out of the dust of the earth.
May these ashes be to us
a sign of our mortality and penitance,
so that we may remember
that only by your gracious gift
are we given everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our saviour. Amen.**

The Mark of the Ashes

**“May the cross of Christ guide you
and comfort you on your journey. AMEN”**

*During the time of marking members with the ashes,
we will sing:*

Hymn # 508 “Just as I Am”

Closing Prayer for the Journey

Hymn # 642 “Be Thou My Vision”

Commissioning *(Responsive)*

Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether,
the past is finished and gone,
everything becomes fresh and new.

**Glory to God, whose power working in us
can do infinitely more than we can ask
or imagine!**

**Glory to God from generation to generation
in the world, in the church, and in our lives!**

Benediction

May the grace of Christ, the love of God,
and the sustaining power of the Holy Spirit
continue to bless your Lenten journey.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Benediction Response

“Go Now in Peace” by Don Besig
*Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love and show you believe
Reach out to others so all the world can see
God will be there, watching from above
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen, Amen, Amen.*

