

First Presbyterian Church

Ash Wednesday



Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Meditation before Worship

Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who trust in you. Create in us new and contrite hearts that truly repent of our sins and acknowledge our brokenness, that we may receive from you, God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness. This we pray through your Son, Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

"It Is Well with My Soul"

arr. John Ness Beck (1930-1987)

Welcome

Introit "Gracious God, My Heart Renew" Richard Redhead, 1853

Gracious God, my heart renew, make my spirit right and true;
Cast me not away from thee, let thy Spirit dwell in me;
Thy salvation's joy impart, steadfast make my willing heart.

***Call to Worship**

Leader: God sent Christ into the world

People: not to condemn the world,

Leader: but that the world might be saved through him.

People: God's love endures forever.

Leader: God is our refuge and strength,

People: a present help in trouble.

Leader: Therefore we will not fear

People: though the earth should change,

Leader: though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

People: though the waters roar and foam,

Leader: though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

People: We will not fear because God's love endures forever.

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Choir Anthem

“Psalm 51:10-12”

Sam Batt Owens, 1983

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation; uphold me with your free spirit.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 58:1-12

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon “Lenten Practices of Social Justice” Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

Invitation to Observe a Holy Lent

Psalm 51

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

People: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

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

People: Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

Leader: Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

People: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Leader: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

People: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

Leader: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

People: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Leader: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

People: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Leader: Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

People: Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

Leader: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

People: For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

All: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Litany of Penitence

Leader: Let us pray: Holy and merciful God... as we have been forgiven.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: We have not listened ... grieved your Holy Spirit.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness. For the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: For our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: For our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: For our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: For our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: Accept our repentance ... indifference to injustice and cruelty,

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: For all false judgments ... toward those who differ from us,

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: Restore us, O God of our salvation, and show us your steadfast love.

People: Turn to us in your mercy and redeem us.

Imposition of Ashes

Leader: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

People: Amen.

Leader: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

People: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

Leader: By the cross and passion of our Savior,

People: bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.

***Response Hymn**

“Lord, Have Mercy”

#551

The Response to the Word

***Invitation to Offering**

***Response**

“We Lift Our Voices”

#710

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

(We will be receiving communion by using the cups that you will pick up as you enter the sanctuary. The communion wafer is in the package on top of the cup. Gluten-free bread may be found on the communion table.)

***Invitation to the Lord's Table**

***Hymn of Invitation**

“Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness”

#314

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks ...

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the heavenly choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in your name.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: You are Holy ... Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**People: Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit ... Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

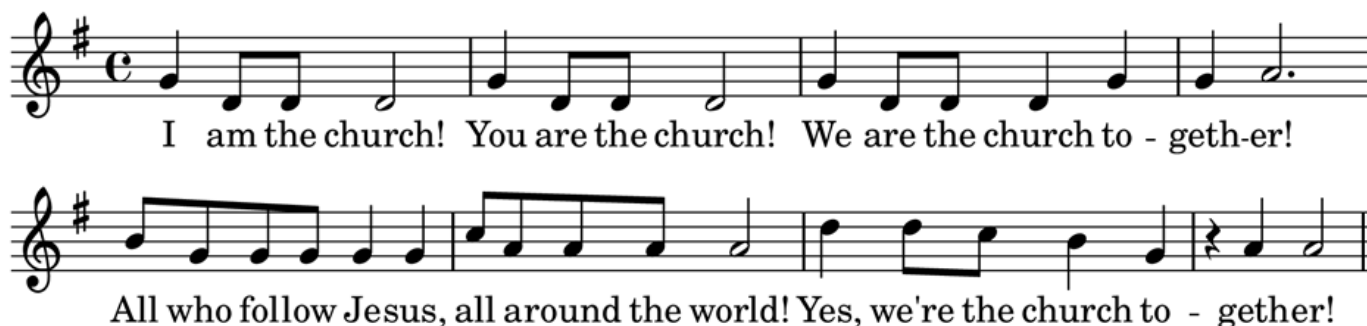
God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ, you reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

The Sending of God's People

*Closing Hymn "Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples" #757

*Charge and Blessing

*Congregational Response "We Are the Church"



I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!

All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - geth-er!

Words and Music: Richard K. Avery and Donald S. Marsh
Words and Music © 1972 Hope Publishing Company
Used by Permission. CCLI License # 1203910

*Postlude "A Lenten Psalm" arr. Wihla Hutson

Pastors: Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood
Dr. Mark A. Johnson
Steve Watters

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd
Organist: Carol Welk
Acolyte: Devin Griggs