

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ash Wednesday



February 22, 2023

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP
First Presbyterian Church
February 22, 2023

PRELUDE

A Time for Prayer

David Paxton

SILENT MEDITATION

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 51:10-12, 15

One: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
All: and put a new and right spirit within me.
One: Do not cast me away from your presence,
All: and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.
One: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
All: and sustain in me a willing spirit.
One: O Lord, open my lips,
All: and my mouth will declare your praise.

HYMN 442 (Remain seated)

Just As I Am, without One Plea

WOODWORTH

OPENING SENTENCES (Psalm 46:1-3)

One: God is our refuge and strength,
All: a present help in trouble.
One: Therefore we will not fear
All: though the earth should change,
One: though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
All: though the waters roar and foam,
One: though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
All: God's love endures forever.

SUNG CALL TO PRAYER 471

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

HEAR MY PRAYER

*O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.*

*The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise:
All my hope comes from God.
The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise:
God, the wellspring of life.*

LITANY OF LONGING

The lyrics of our 200th anniversary hymn: #314

One: Longing for light, we wait in darkness,
All: Longing for truth, we turn to you.
One: Make us your own, your holy people,
All: Light for the world to see.
One: Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
All: Longing for hope, many despair.
One: Your word alone has power to save us.
All: Make us your living voice.
One: Longing for food, many are hungry.
All: Longing for water, many still thirst.
One: Make us your bread, broken for others,
All: Shared until all are fed.

One: Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
All: Longing for warmth, many are cold.
One: Make us your building, sheltering others,
All: Walls made of living stone.
One: Many the gifts, many the people,
All: Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
One: Let us be servants to one another,
All: Making your kingdom come.

(The refrain is sung together.)

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 22:1-19

MEDITATION

Rev. Bob Brearley

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

We begin the journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. The ashes placed on our foreheads convey the uncertainty and frailty of our lives. May they remind us to spend the days of Lent in prayer and fasting, in examination of our lives, in doing works of love and justice, and in grounding ourselves in the words of Scripture.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Dear God, who calls us to journey through the wilderness, we step forward with courage, called to walk the way of Christ. May we walk in humility and courage, as did Abraham when he prepared to sacrifice his son; in honesty, as did the Samaritan woman when Jesus challenged her at the well, in fortitude, as did Jesus when confronted by the Tempter.

As we experience our internal and individual repentance, may we also repent of the social brokenness that we have caused, the injustices and inequalities we have turned away from. Give us compassion for the mourning and disaster that others experience, and show us how to be healers even as we ourselves are healed.

And after our forty days of reflection, repentance, and mourning, when we come at dawn to the Easter garden, may we know the true joy of Resurrection morning. 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.

* **HYMN** 215

What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE

* **BENEDICTION**

Please leave the sanctuary in silent thanksgiving to God.

All music is used with permission: OneLicense.net #A-711301.

First Presbyterian Church
9 West Calhoun Street
Sumter, SC 29150
803-773-3814
www.fpcsumter.org