

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ash Wednesday



March 2, 2022

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP
First Presbyterian Church
March 2, 2022

PRELUDE

A Time for Prayer

David Paxton

SILENT MEDITATION

OPENING PRAYER

One: Holy God, we place ourselves in your presence; we rest in the promise of your grace. Our minds and our spirits are cluttered with many thoughts and feelings that threaten to pull our attention away from you. Help us unclench our fists and release those things that bind us ever so tightly: We release all that we have done today—whether for good or for ill.

All: We release all that we feel we should have done today, but did not do.

Silence

One: We release all that we need to do tomorrow.

All: We release our fear. We release our anxiety. We release our impatience. We release our pride.

Silence

One: All of the thoughts, all of the feelings that pull us away from you, O God, we release. Fill us now with the joy and the peace of your deep, abiding presence.

All: We offer all of ourselves to you, our One God, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. Amen.

HYMN 288 (Remain seated)

Spirit of the Living God

LIVING GOD

PRAYER CONFESSING OUR NEED FOR GOD

One: In the softness of evening, in the solace of silence we come to you, O Lord.
We come for acceptance; we come for community; we come for forgiveness and love.

All: Hymn 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.

One: In the serenity of day's end, in the restfulness of worship, we come to you, O Lord.
We come to you for respite; we come to you for completion;
We come to you for forgiveness and love.

All: ***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.

One: In the quiet of the night, in the comfort of darkness we come to you, O Lord.
We come for peace; we come for comfort; we come for forgiveness and love.
We come for the path we cannot find; we come for the life we do not have.
We come to you, for our lives are but dust, and you alone have breath and being.
We come, because we must.

All: ***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 CONFESSION

Let us pray.

One: Holy and merciful God, we confess to you, to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth.

All: **We have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

One: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

All: **Have mercy on us, O God.**

One: We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

All: **Have mercy on us, O God.**

One: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness:
The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

All: **We confess to you, O God**

One: Our self-indulgent appetites and our exploitation of other people,

All: **We confess to you, O God**

One: Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

All: **We confess to you, O God**

One: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

All: **We confess to you, O God**

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

All: **We confess to you, O God.**

One: Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done.

For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

All: **Accept our repentance, O God.**

One: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,
and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

All: **Accept our repentance, O God.**

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

All: **Accept our repentance, O God.**

One: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

All: **Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 51:1-17

MEDITATION

"Sin Management"

Rev. Bob Brearley

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(At this time all are invited to come forward down the center aisle to receive the sign of the cross. An ashen cross will be placed on your forehead by the pastors to remind us a sign our brokenness, and our need for the grace of Jesus Christ. As the ashes are administered, the pastors will say, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." You may respond with silence or with an "Amen," or "Thanks be to God.")

* HYMN 250

*In the Bulb There is a Flower
(Hymn of Promise)*

PROMISE

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

My Church Be Steadfast

Roger Wilson

2022 ZOOM LENTEN SERVICES

12:00 Noon

Christ's Death On The Cross . . .

March 9	Offers Forgiveness of Sin Luke 23:33-34	Rev. Nick Cheek
March 16	Demonstrates God's Love John 3:16/Romans 5:8	Pastor Delcia Harper-Baxter
March 23	Heals and Restores to Wholeness Isaiah 53:4-6/1 Peter 2:24	Rev. Dr. Larry Hill
March 30	Reveals God's Amazing Grace Hebrews 4:14-16	Elder Dorothy McBride

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/92413750242?pwd=Q1RQUURwN3YrRTRrRVloT2Y3R2lyZz09>

Zoom: Meeting ID: **924 1375 0242** Passcode: **636048**

Dial phone: **1 646 558 8656** then ID: **924 1375 0242#** then #

First Presbyterian Church

9 West Calhoun Street

Sumter, SC 29150

803-773-3814