

ASH WEDNESDAY



Ash Wednesday Service

March 2, 2022

Collect of the Day (Personal Contemplation and Preparation)

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

— From the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. Public domain.

Prelude

Introit

Silence

Call to Worship

God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.

God's love endures forever.

God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble.

God's love endures forever.

Therefore, we will not fear though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though the waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

God's love endures forever.

***Hymn:** **“Rock of Ages” (verses 1 and 2)**

***Rock of Ages, cleft for me; Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, from Thy wounded side which flowed
Be of sin the double cure, Save from wrath and make me pure.***

***Could my tears forever flow, Could my zeal no langor know.
These for sin could not atone—Thou must save and Thou alone.
In my hand no price I bring. Simply to Thy cross I cling.***

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12

Hymn: **“I Surrender All” (verses 1,2)**

***All to Jesus I surrender, All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust him, In His presence daily love.***

Refrain

***I surrender all, I surrender all,
All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.***

***All to Jesus I surrender, Humbly at his feet I bow,
Worldly pleasures all forsaken; Take me Jesus, take me now.***

Refrain

New Testament Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Hymn: **“I Surrender All” (verses 3,4)**

***All to Jesus I surrender, Make me, Savior, wholly Thine.
Let me feel the Holy Spirit, Truly know that Thou art mine.***

Refrain

***All to Jesus I surrender, Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power, Let Thy blessing fall on me.***

Refrain

Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:1-6,19-21

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Anthem

Meditation

Pastor Mary Kay Glunt

INVITATION TO LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Hymn: *“Cleanse Me”* (verse 1)

*Search me, O God, and know my heart today;
Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.
See if there be some wicked way in me;
Cleanse me from every sin and set me free.*

Invitation to Confession

Let us ponder what it is that we may let go of this Lenten season, in order to help us hear more clearly the stories of Jesus' extravagant love for all, and to follow him more bravely and confidently. Let us confess our sins and failures in the words of Psalm 51.

Prayer of Confession (from Psalm 51:1-17)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;

Silence

Cleanse me, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

Silence

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Amen.

Hymn:

“Cleanse Me” (verse 3)

*Lord, take my life, and make it wholly Thine;
Fill my poor heart with Thy great love divine.
Take all my will, my passion, self and pride;
I now surrender, Lord in me abide.*

Assurance of Pardon

May the almighty and merciful God, who desires not the death of a sinner but that we turn from wickedness and live, accept your repentance, forgive your sins, and restore you by the Holy Spirit to newness of life.

**We believe God’s promises to cleanse our sins and renew us each day.
In Christ we have redemption. Amen.**

Gloria Patri

The Peace

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

Imposition of Ashes

Come down the center aisle to receive ashes.

First, place your paper in the baptismal font and stir.

*As the paper dissolves, just as the washing of the Word
washes our sins away, give thanks to God.*

*If you want to receive ashes on the back of your hand, hold it out.
After receiving (or if you choose not to receive ashes), make your
way to the right or left and choose a stone to remind you of the
burdens that you are laying down before the Lord.*

Invitation to Offer Ourselves to God

May we give of ourselves as a symbol of our appreciation for receiving the mark of God's love in such beautiful and meaningful ways. As you have been given the mark of God's love, may you also give in return that others may hear and receive the mark of God's love on their hearts and lives.

(Offering plates are located at the front of the church)

Offertory

***Doxology**

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

Creator God, you have so freely given to each of us. May the gifts we offer today be used to share that love with all in our church, our community, and your world. Amen.

Hymn:

"They'll Know We Are Christians"

**We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.
We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity will one day be restored.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

Benediction

Depart from this place marked not only with ashes, as a sign of your own mortality and weakness, but marked as well by the Spirit of God and as recipients of the promise of the power that carried Jesus through His 40 days in the desert, that carried Moses as he led the Children of Israel through the wilderness.

We go in power and grace and in the hope of transformation, In the name of the Father, our Creator, and the Son our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter. *Amen*

Postlude

Belle Vernon Area Ministerium Lenten Liturgy Services:

Wednesdays in Lent at 12 noon: March 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6.

(No lunch will be served again this year) Join area ministers and church members as we meet for a Lenten devotion and worship. All services will be hosted here at First Presbyterian Church.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Clerk of Session:	Sharon Zunic	929-4463
Church Secretary:	Natalie Brewer	929-7616
Chairman of Deacons:	Susan Aten	929-6406
Head Usher:	Bill Callaway	929-5176
Organist/Choir Director (interim)	Dennis Johnson	(412) 802-5105
Custodian:	Patty Gillon	929-7616
H. O. A.:	Linda Aten	929-6406

E L D E R S

Class of 2022

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Dee Hepple
Mike Moravec
Judy Latchem

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Jane Bonari
Mary Beth Burkley
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