

ASH WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY 26, 2020

PRELUDE *Prelude on "Out of the Depths"* Gerald Near

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

We come to worship God as the Lenten season begins,  
aware of our frailty and our failings.

**We come seeking God's mercy,  
acknowledging our mortality.**

Having received the waters of baptism,  
we are marked now with ashes.

**The treasures of this earth do not last;  
our treasure is in heaven,  
our heart's true home.**

**\*HYMN 257** *What Wondrous Love Is This*

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

In quiet trust, in simple words,  
we enter a space for prayer.

**As we confess our sins,  
both secret and public,  
the door to God's heart is open,  
and we enter into grace and mercy.**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us. We have many treasures on earth that we hold too dearly; that we withhold from others in need. When we sin against neighbor, condone injustice, and quarrel with one another, we sin against you. Forgive us, we pray, for we are broken in spirit. Do not see us for our faults, and do not go away from us. Keep us always in your presence so that we may be restored to the joy of your salvation. Sustain in us a willing spirit to treasure what you desire; then our hearts will be opened in joy and gladness. In Jesus Christ, our Treasure, we pray. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

According to God's steadfast love,  
according to God's abundant mercy,  
God does not pass judgment on us  
the judgment we deserve.

**God creates in us clean hearts  
and gives a new and right spirit.  
In the grace of Jesus Christ,  
we return to God forgiven.  
Praise God for our salvation!**

**PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE**

Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying,  
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy God,  
as the Ordinary season now turns to Lent,  
we pray that you will guide us in the days ahead.  
As we journey with Jesus Christ,  
give us an abiding sense of your presence,  
an unguarded sense of ourselves,  
and an awareness of the needs of this world.  
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God,  
as we are marked with the ashes of earth,  
we bring before you the frailty  
of our very human lives:  
the un-predictableness of our health,  
the instability of our accomplishments and plans,  
the changing nature of even our closest relationships.  
Grant us patience in suffering  
and healing from our ills.  
Give us, in equal measure,  
humility and hope in our pursuits.  
Bind us in covenantal love  
that is both constant yet able to change  
according to the needs and circumstances before us.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Just God,  
you call us to loosen the bonds of injustice,  
to care for those in need,  
to lift the burdens that bind others.  
We ask you to increase our courage  
and our will to work for the freedom and peace  
you envision and demand.  
We pray for an end to warfare and conflict,  
accepting our calling to be peacemakers.  
We pray for an end to hunger and homelessness,  
knowing we are called to share our bread and to open our doors.  
We pray for an end to false righteousness, evil speech, and shallow piety  
in our lives,  
in the church,  
in our national life,  
and among all the nations.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Forever God,  
we pray that your kingdom will come in fullness;  
that what is perishable will be raised imperishable;  
and that death itself will be swallowed up in victory;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Almighty God,  
Open our hearts as we read and proclaim your Word to us.  
**By the power of your Holy Spirit, speak to us.  
In Christ's name we ask it. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 58:1-7 p. 600

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 18:9-14 p. 853

**HOMILY**

**ANTHEM** *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind* Dale Wood

**SILENT REFLECTION**

*During the time of reflection, you are invited to write down (on slips of paper provided to you) the areas of your life that you desire God's intervention and forgiveness and bring them forward to be burned.*

**LITANY OF PENITENCE**

We bow our heads before you, O God,  
**aware of our sinfulness and our shortcomings.**  
Remembering our baptism,  
**the watermark of the cross upon us,**  
we also receive this ashen cross upon our foreheads—  
**another sign that in life and in death, we belong to you.**  
**In the name of Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and coming again,  
we pray. Amen.**

**IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.  
**In life and death, I belong to God.**

**\*HYMN 261** *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

**CHARGE AND BEDICTION**

Practice your piety not before others, but before God.  
Give generously, but quietly; pray constantly, but confidentially;  
fast with gratitude to God;  
and store up that which is in your heart;  
for it cannot be taken from you.  
**The blessing of God, who hears when we call;  
the grace of Christ, who reconciles us;  
the power of the Holy Spirit, who sustains us;  
remain with us in these Lenten days  
and for all our days, and forevermore.**

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Welcome to this Ash Wednesday Service. Ash Wednesday begins the journey of Lent that leads to Easter. When it comes time for the Imposition of Ashes, the pastor will say, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." You will then respond with, "In life and death, I belong to God."

#### Beginning Prayer

Gracious God, calm my heart and quiet my mind,  
as I spend this time with you.  
Thank you for being here with me through your Holy Spirit.  
Thank you for loving me no matter what,  
wherever I am, however I feel.  
Help me to listen to your Spirit  
speak to me through these verses.  
Mold me and make me, after your will.  
In Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.

#### Prepare

- Locate a quiet place
- Take three deep, slow breaths

#### Ponder

- Read daily verses several times
- Is there a word or phrase that captures my attention?
- Summarize the verses in your words

#### Personalize

- What is God saying to me in these verses?
- Is it encouraging? Challenging? Directing me to do something?

#### Practice

- Write a word or phrase that reminds you of these verses
- Find a creative way to remind yourself of these verses during the day
  - 3 x 5 cards or post it notes

#### Blessing for the day

Now may God's love,  
which is beyond the measure of our minds,  
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
which is sufficient for all our needs,  
and The fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
which leads us into all truth,  
Be with us through this meeting and this day. Amen.

#### Scripture Readings for Lent

Feb 27 - Luke 18:9-14  
Feb 28 - John 1:29-34  
Feb 29 - John 1:35-42  
Mar 1 - John 1:43-51

Mar 2 - Mark 2:18-22  
Mar 3 - John 2:1-12  
Mar 4 - John 2:13-22  
Mar 5 - John 2:23-3:15  
Mar 6 - John 3:16-21  
Mar 7 - John 3:22-36  
Mar 8 - John 4:1-26

Mar 9 - Mark 3:31-4:9  
Mar 10 - John 4:27-42  
Mar 11 - John 4:43-54  
Mar 12 - John 5:1-18  
Mar 13 - John 5:19-29  
Mar 14 - John 5:30-47  
Mar 15 - John 7:1-13

Mar 16 - Mark 5:1-20  
Mar 17 - John 7:14-36  
Mar 18 - John 7:37-52  
Mar 19 - John 8:12-20  
Mar 20 - John 8:21-32  
Mar 21 - John 8:33-47  
Mar 22 - John 8:47-59

Mar 23 - Mark 8:11-21  
Mar 24 - John 6:1-15  
Mar 25 - John 6:16-27  
Mar 26 - John 6:27-40  
Mar 27 - John 6:41-51  
Mar 28 - John 6:52-59  
Mar 29 - John 6:60-71

Mar 30 - Mark 8:31 - 9:1  
Mar 31 - John 9:1-17  
Apr 1 - John 9:18-41  
Apr 2 - John 10:1-18  
Apr 3 - John 10:19-42  
Apr 4 - John 11:1-27  
Apr 5 - John 11:28-44

Apr 6 - Matthew 21:12-17  
Apr 7 - John 12:9-19  
Apr 8 - John 12:20-26  
Apr 9 - John 12:27-36  
Apr 10 - John 17:1-26  
Apr 11 - John 13:36-38  
Apr 12 - Romans 8:1-11

Apr 13 - Luke 24:13-35

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Wednesday, February 26, 2020



*Responding to God's love and grace,  
our vision is to serve Christ through service to others*