

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Spartanburg, South Carolina

February 26, 2020

A graphic featuring a large, dark, textured brushstroke that sweeps across the middle of the page. Overlaid on this stroke is the text "ASH WEDNESDAY" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below "ASH WEDNESDAY", the word "worship" is written in a red, cursive script font.

ASH WEDNESDAY
worship

WELCOME!

First Presbyterian Church
is a community of believers committed to
“Glorifying God and Sharing Christ Together
through Word and Deed.”

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

February 26, 2020

6:30pm

Please write requests for prayer on the card found in your bulletin.

When you come forward to receive the ashes, bring your prayer requests with you and place them in the basket.

The staff will pray for these requests during this Season of Lent.

† CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

**All: Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near!**

One: Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people.

All: Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children.

One: Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing.

**All: Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.**

(Joel 2:1, 15-16a, 12-13)

† HYMN 433

Sign Us with Ashes

PHOENIX

(Congregation: Please join in singing the Refrain)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

We bring our burdens and our sins to You, O Christ,
who bears the heavy load for us.

We place upon You our excuses, our shortcomings, our anger and our desire,
knowing that You can remove these sins from us
and restore us to life.

We confess that we have gone astray.

We confess that we have not loved You fully
and have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.

We confess that we have not fully loved even our very selves.

Forgive us of our sins.

Help us to turn back to You.

Restore what has been broken,
transform what has been twisted, find what has been lost,
so we may be the living, loving image of You in creation.

SILENT CONFESSION

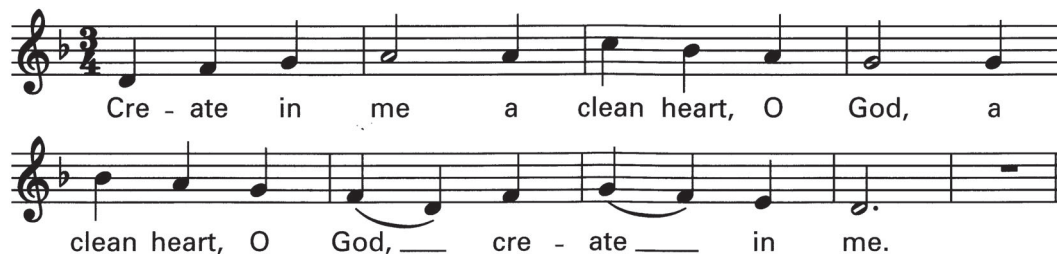
† Please rise in body or spirit.

SUNG CONFESSION

Psalm 51

Tom Kendzia

(Please sing upon direction.)



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.

All: **In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free.
Thanks be to God forever more! Amen!**

RESPONSE TO PARDON

HYMN 415, VERSE 1

RESTORATION

*Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
full of pity, love, and power.*

*I will arise and go to Jesus;
he will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O there are ten thousand charms.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 4:1-11

A WORD FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

† HYMN 166

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

ST. FLAVIAN

AN INVITATION TO LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Rev. L. Craig Foster

BENEDICTION

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*As the music plays, you are invited to come forward
to receive ashes on your forehead in the sign of a cross.*

*If you prefer, you may hold out your hand
and one of our pastors will impose the ashes on the back of your hand.
This is a reminder that all of us are sinners who will one day die,
but that we trust in God's forgiveness and grace in Jesus Christ.*

Please bring your prayer cards with you.

*After receiving the ashes, we ask that you leave the Sanctuary in silence
to begin observing the forty days of Lent as a time of repentance and reflection.*

PARTICIPATING IN TONIGHT'S SERVICE

Rev. L. Craig Foster
Dr. Thomas E. Evans
Rev. J. Robert Bannan, Jr.
Rev. Leslie A. Lang

Mrs. Holly M. Bannan

Holt Andrews, Director
Marcia Andrews, Organist



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393 E Main St, Spartanburg, SC 29302
864/583-4531 www.fpcspartanburg.org