

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Spartanburg, South Carolina

March 1, 2017



WELCOME!

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

Ash Wednesday Service

March 1, 2017

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 open Baptismal Font.*

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

GATHERING

The grace and peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us prepare our hearts for worship.

PRELUDE

Wondrous Love

Dale Wood

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

**let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;**

let them return to the Lord,
that he may have mercy on them,

and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

(Isaiah 55:6-7)

† HYMN 415

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

RESTORATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Responsive)

One:

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.
Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

**All: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

(Psalm 51:1-12)

† RESPONSE (HYMN 833, v4)

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

ST. MARGARET

*O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.*

† ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

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

(Psalm 130:3-4)

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

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.*

Please bring your prayer cards with you.

*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.*

*You may then move out from this worship service in silence
to begin observing the forty days of Lent
as a time of repentance and reflection.*

† Please rise in body or spirit.

PARTICIPATING IN THIS EVENING'S SERVICE

Rev. Jason C. Moore
Dr. Thomas E. Evans
Rev. L. Craig Foster
Rev. Joanne R. Hull
Rev. Christi O. Brown
Mrs. Marcia C. Andrews, organist



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