

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
NRSV
2:1-3

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

IN THE SANCTUARY OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 22, 2023

6:30 p.m.

GATHERING

Preparation for Worship

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Psalm 51:1

Prelude

Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

arr. Ritter

*Call to Worship

In the softness of evening, in the restfulness of worship,
God's people have been called to gather.

From toddlers to great-grandparents, we gather.

In the quiet of the night, in the comfort of darkness,
God's people have been called to repent.

*From those who wear their faults on their sleeves,
to those whose secret hearts are broken, we come before God.*

The season of Lent calls us to journey.

*Tonight we begin our Lenten journey
with the God who will not let go of our hands.*

*Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray:

*Almighty God, you showed grace and mercy to your servant David,
granting him forgiveness.*

*According to your perfect plan, David the king became an ancestor
of a greater King, the Savior called the Son of David,
Jesus the Messiah.*

*Through the death and resurrection of Jesus,
we too know and experience your amazing grace.*

*During this season of Lent, lead us to true repentance
and renew your Spirit within us
that we might serve you by sharing your love with others
and living as witnesses to Jesus' love.*

Hear our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Hymn 166

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

ST. FLAVIAN

Invitation to the Observance of Lent

Corporate Confession of Sin

Psalm 51:1-12

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

²*Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.*

³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴*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.*

⁵Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

⁶*You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.*

⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸*Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.*

⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.*

¹¹Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

¹²*Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.*

Silent Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon

Just as he did in the life of his servant David,

God has showered us with his grace,
his undeserved favor for sinners.

Christ came into the world to reconcile us to God.

In the love of Jesus Christ, you are loved forever.

Friends believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

GROWING

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

2 Samuel 12:1-13
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

p. 222

Message

“GRACE FOR THE HUMBLE”

Rev. Annie McMillan

CARING

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Table

The Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise,
eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe ...

... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the heavenly choirs
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is
he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.*

Breaking of the Bread and the Communion of the People

Imposition of Ashes

*Those who desire to come forward to receive ashes as a sign of their
repentance before God, and their desire to live a repentant life,
are invited to do so when coming forward
to receive the communion elements.*

*Communion will be by intinction. Move down the center aisle to take
bread from one server and dip the bread in the cup of the other server.*

Please return to your seat by the side aisle.

Prayer after Communion

GOING

***Hymn 649**

Amazing Grace

AMAZING GRACE

***Benediction and Charge**

We ask that you depart in silence.



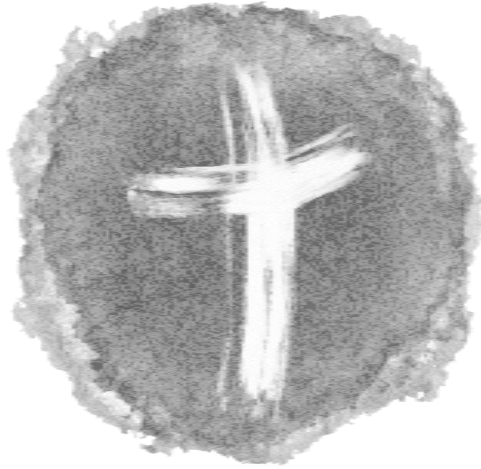
Participating in Worship

Rev. Annie McMillan - *Pastor*

Scott Rockhold - *Organist*

Kelly Beckett - *Liturgist*

*Those who are able, please stand.



Ash
WEDNESDAY