



**2022**

**Second Presbyterian Church**

Organized 1818

*A congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

*A Stephen Ministry Congregation*

2829 Kingston Pike + Knoxville, TN 37919

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Entering into the rhythm of the Lenten season, let us open our hearts to a meditative and reflective style of worship.

The mood of this service is penitence and reflection upon the quality of one's faith and life; its goal is to enlist participation in the Lenten discipline which, by its focus upon the mystery of our redemption, should strengthen us by bringing us again and anew to the gift of our baptism. We will use music with simple melodies, periods of silence, and scripture. This service of meditation finds its true meaning in the active participation of all assembled and is meant to focus our attention on quieting our souls and being in the presence of God.

Ashes are prepared for this service. Ashes are an extraordinarily rich symbol rooted in ancient customs and practices. Ashes, in a Jewish and Christian context, suggest judgment, God's condemnation of sin, frailty, and our total dependence upon God for life, humility, and repentance. Ashes were once used as a cleansing agent in the absence of soap, so they also suggest cleansing and renewal. On Ash Wednesday the ashes have also been understood as a substitute for water as a sign of baptism.

The Ash Wednesday liturgy marks the beginning of the Lenten discipline, which climaxes in the absolution and peace of the Maundy Thursday liturgy. *Lent* is from an Anglo-Saxon word meaning *springtime* and so is to be understood as the holy springtime of the soul – a time for preparation, planting, and growth.

✠ **HYMN**      *In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness*      #850  
In a deep unbounded darkness, long before the first light shone  
You, O God, beyond all merit, worked a wonder faith makes known  
In your mercy, in your mercy  
You embraced us as your own  
Evermore and evermore

Though our world is ever-changing, you are constant, firm, and sure  
Faithful to your covenant promise; trusting you, we live secure  
Singing praises, singing praises  
Long as heart and breath endure  
Evermore and evermore

Joy transforms our lips to boasting only in your matchless grace  
Sending Christ to dwell among us; Word made flesh in time and space  
Friend and Savior, Friend and Savior  
In whose life we glimpse your face  
Evermore and evermore

God of Hagar, God of Sarah, God of nomad Abraham  
God of Miriam, God of Moses, Fiery Pillar, Great I AM  
Lead us homeward, lead us homeward  
To the love feast of the Lamb  
Evermore and evermore

✠ **BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

✠ **POSTLUDE**      Dialogue on the Grand Jeux      *F. Couperin*

**SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS EVENING**

Tim Reynolds – Pastor  
Sarah Morgan – Pastor  
Dana Hendrix – Liturgist  
Matt Mimbs – Director of Music & Arts  
Justin Brueggeman – Organist  
Second Presbyterian Chancel Choir

## THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

### ✠IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Those wishing to receive ashes are invited to come forward down the center aisle one pew at a time. If you are unable to come forward for the Imposition of Ashes, remain in your seat and the pastor will come to you where you are.

### ANTHEM *Create in Me a Clean Heart* *Carl F. Mueller*

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from thy presence;  
and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation,  
uphold me with thy free Spirit.

Then will I teach transgressors thy ways  
And sinners shall be converted unto thee.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God.

### LITANY OF ASSURANCE

The Spirit guides us as we navigate the known and the unknown of this world. Our defenses crumble in the presence of God's holiness. Our hearts are softened in the presence of Christ's mercy. Trust the Good News of the Gospel; nothing in life or death, nor any power, can take from us the love of God.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## ASH WEDNESDAY

March 2, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

### *GATHERING AROUND THE WORD*

**PRELUDE** *Grave* from Concerto No. 1 *J. S. Bach*

### INTROIT

### ✠CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

One: We despise our fragility.

**All: God is our hope in life and in death.**

One: We are terrified by shapeless threat.

**All: In Christ we are held, in life and in death.**

One: God chooses redemption and releases the bonds of fear.

**All: May God prepare our hearts and minds to be renewed in Christ.**

### ✠OPENING PRAYER

### ✠HYMN *Our Father, We Have Wandered* PASSION CHORALE

**Our Father, we have wandered and hidden from your face  
In foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace  
But now, in exile dwelling, we rise with fear and shame  
As, distant but compelling, we hear you call our name**

**And now at length discerning the evil that we do  
Behold us, Lord, returning with hope and trust to you  
In haste you come to meet us and home rejoicing bring  
In gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring**

**O Lord of all the living, both banished and restored  
Compassionate, forgiving and ever-caring Lord  
Grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease  
Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace**



## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### HEBREW BIBLE READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near – a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

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. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, “Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

### SILENT MEDITATION

### RESPONSIVE READING

adapted from Isaiah 58:1-11

Shout loudly! Don’t hold back! Raise your voice like a trumpet! Tell my people what they have done wrong, let my family know their sins. They seek me day after day, come to worship and shower me with praise. To all those who look, they seem to be living right. They ask

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM OF PENITENCE

Psalm 51

Refrain Unison

The sac - ri - fice You ac - cept, O God, is a hum - ble spir - it.

*Have mercy on me, O God, in your kindness  
In your compassion blot out my offense  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
And cleanse me from my sin  
My offenses, truly I know them  
My sin is always before me  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned  
What is evil in your sight I have done (R)*

*That you may be justified when you give sentence  
And be without reproach when you judge  
O see, in guilt I was born  
A sinner was I conceived  
A pure heart create for me, O God  
Put a steadfast spirit within me  
Do not cast me away from your presence  
Nor deprive me of your Holy Spirit (R)*

*O rescue me, God, my helper  
And my tongue shall ring out your goodness  
O Lord, open my lips  
And my mouth shall declare your praise  
For in sacrifice you take no delight  
Burnt offering from me you would refuse  
My sacrifice, a contrite spirit  
A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn (R)*

We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness:

The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,  
**we confess to you, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,  
**we confess to you, O God.**

Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,  
**we confess to you, O God.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,  
**we confess to you, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,  
**we confess to you, O God.**

Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,  
**accept our repentance, O God.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts towards our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,  
**accept our repentance, O God.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us,  
**accept our repentance, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**Hear us, O God, and look upon us with favor, for your mercy is great.**

me for my help, wanting to be close to me, wanting me to be on their side. They study my Word constantly, but they don't do the things I tell them to do there.

**We do we worship, O Lord, and you don't see? Why do we make sacrifices and offerings, but you don't notice?**

Because you aren't doing what I've asked you to do. You do whatever you want. You take advantage of the poor and don't pay your employees a fair living wage. You argue and you fight with one another, and then you come to me wanting my blessing, wanting me to hear your voice. But this kind of behavior isn't acceptable to me. It's hard for me to hear your voice in worship when I see your actions the rest of the week.

**We know what you have asked us to do, O Lord: to break the chains of injustice, to get rid of exploitation in the workplace, to free the oppressed, and to cancel debts. We just have a hard time doing it.**

Yes! This is what I have asked of you: to share your food with the hungry, to invite the homeless poor into your homes, to give clothes to those who are cold and shivering, and to be available to your own families. Do this and my light will be reflected in you, and your lives will change for the better. People will see your righteousness and I will be with you every step of the way. When you pray, I will answer; when you call for help, I will be there.

**O Lord, help us. Help us to work against unfair practices, to quit blaming victims, to stop pointing fingers and speaking ill of others. Help us to be generous with the hungry, to give to those who need help.**

I *will* help you do these things, and then your light will shine in the darkness. My glory will shine forth in you as bright as the noonday sun. I will be your guide continuously and I will provide for you, even in the driest times and emptiest of places. You will be strong, because of me. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a bubbling spring that never runs dry.

**SILENT MEDITATION**

## GOSPEL READING

**Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

## SILENT MEDITATION

## HOMILY

**Sarah Morgan**



## *RESPONDING TO THE WORD*

## LITANY OF ASSURANCE

The Spirit guides us as we navigate the known and the unknown of this world. Our defenses crumble in the presence of God's holiness. Our hearts are softened in the presence of Christ's mercy. Trust the Good News of the Gospel; nothing in life or death, nor any power, can take from us the love of God.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

## INVITATION TO OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own doing in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**