



ASH
WEDNESDAY

[Faint, illegible text]

First Presbyterian Church
Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2025

Prelude *“Have Mercy on Me, O Lord God”* Johann Gottfried Walther

Welcome

Introit..... *“Jesu, Blessed Jesu”* Gordon Young

Call to Worship

Beloved of God, the season of Lent begins.

We come to be marked by dust and longing for mercy.

We turn our hearts toward God,

Who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

This is the day to return— not with pretense, but with honesty; not with fear, but with hope.

We come to repent. We come to be renewed. We come to walk the way of Christ.

Opening Prayer

Holy and merciful God, you formed us from the dust of the earth and breathed into us the breath of life. In this season of repentance, strip away our illusions of self-sufficiency. Walk with us through these forty days, that we may follow Christ more faithfully and rise with hope to new life. **Amen.**

* Hymn 81 *“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”* ST. FLAVIAN

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading Psalm 23 OT Page 501

Anthem..... *“A Wind Blew Over Calvary”* Gregg Sewell

Second Scripture Reading..... John 10:1-18 NT Page 103

Invitation to Observe a Holy Lent Rev. Leslie Roper

* Hymn 387 *“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”* BRADBURY

* Litany of Confession

God of our completeness, we give thanks for the gift of life.

You formed us from dust in your image and breathed into us your own breath.

God of our wholeness, we give thanks for the gift of love.

You showed us what that love looks like in action through the life and death of your son, Jesus.

God, your love for us is unconditional.

Forgive us our conditions.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on___ us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on___ us.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on___ us. Grant us Thy peace.

You created us in your image and made us to share our life together.

But I'm more interested in my own life.

You formed us to have compassion for one another

But I'm more interested in my own needs.

You long for us to peacefully listen to one another.

But I'm more interested in my own opinions.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on___ us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on___ us.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on___ us. Grant us Thy peace.

You see in us a potential that is beyond our imaginations.

I am more comfortable with the status quo.

You call us to a place of renewal.

But change is hard. It's easier to follow my way than to seek your way.

You call us to a new way of life, a way of grace, peace, love, and justice.

I turn my eyes away from people in need. I turn my heart away from people with whom I disagree. I turn my mind away from ideas that make me uncomfortable.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on___ us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on___ us.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on___ us. Grant us Thy peace.

Create in us clean hearts, O God,
And renew a right spirit within us.

Imposition of Ashes

All are invited to come forward and receive the mark of ashes- remembering that while we are weak, God is strong.

After you have been marked by the ashes, take a place card from the table as a reminder to pray at our tables this Lent.

Closing Prayer

With you, God, and in the footsteps of centuries of pilgrims, we embark on our Lenten journey. Help us simplify our days, that we may travel lightly. Open our eyes to our companions on the road, that we may lift each other up along the way. Inspire us to walk humbly, knowing that the goal is not to win a race, but instead to know you more deeply. Guide our feet and guard our path. Amen.

* Hymn 543*Abide with Me*.....EVENTIDE

* Blessing

We ask that you please leave the sanctuary in silence, as people may wish to remain in prayer.

Thank you for coming tonight to our Ash Wednesday service.

Join us for worship at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday.

* Congregation Standing (Please remain seated if standing is uncomfortable.)

The Kyrie Eleison sung during the Litany of Confession was written for this service and used with the permission of the composer.

Songs for the Journey:
Praying the Psalms through Lent

Each Monday in Lent, you are invited to gather as a faith community. Worship begins in the host sanctuary at 12:05pm and a simple lunch follows.

Feb 23	Westminster Presbyterian Church with Rev. Leslie Roper
March 2	Oaklawn United Methodist Church with Rev. David Fleming
March 9	First United Methodist Church with Rev. Mark Nabors
March 16	Grand Avenue United Methodist Church with Rev. Carl McCormack
March 23	St. Luke's Episcopal Church with Rev. Tonya Hancock
March 30	First Presbyterian Church with Rev. J. J. Galloway

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