

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026 – 7 pm

Montevallo Presbyterian Church

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

University Baptist Church

Prelude “ A Prayer for Lent”

Magnus Eck

Welcome and Invitation to Worship

The Rev. Dr. Sam Hamilton-Poore

Introit “Son of God, Whose Heart is Peace” (#425)

Call to Worship Casey Pilgrim

God sent Christ into the world
not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.
God's love endures forever.

God is our refuge and strength,
a present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear
though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
through the waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
God's love endures forever.

Opening Prayer

Hymn #418 “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 58:1-12

NRSVUE

- [1] Shout out; do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.
- [2] Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.
- [3] Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.
- [4] You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
- [5] Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?
- [6] Is this not the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

[7] Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

[8] Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

[9] Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say,
“Here I am.”

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
[10] if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom shall be like noonday.

[11] The LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water whose waters never fail.

[12] Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

2nd Scripture Reading 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 NRSVUE
Sally Smith

[20b] ...we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. [21] For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

[6:1] As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. [2] For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! [3] We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, [4] but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, [5] beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; [6] in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, [7] truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; [8] in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are as imposters and yet are true, [9] as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look—we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, [10] as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“Before I Take the Body of My Lord” (#428)

Third Scripture Reading

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

NRSVUE

[1] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

[2] “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. [3] But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, [4] so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

[5] “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. [6] 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...

[16] “And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. [17] But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, [18] 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.

[19] “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, [20] but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. [21] For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,
thanks be to God.

Sermon The Rev. Quincy Hall

Invitation to Observe a Holy Lent

Beloved people of God:
every year at the time of the Christian Passover
we celebrate our redemption
through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration
and to renew our life in the paschal mystery.
We begin this holy season
by acknowledging our need for repentance,
and for the mercy and forgiveness
proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ...

...I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ,
to observe a holy Lent,
by self-examination and penitence,
by prayer and fasting,
by works of love,
and by meditating on God's word.
Now let us bow before God, our creator and redeemer,
and confess our sin.

Litany of Penitence

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 fault
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,
and 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.

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.

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,
Have mercy on us, O God.

For our waste and pollution of your creation
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
Have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God of our salvation,
and show us your steadfast love.
Turn to us in your mercy and heal us.

Imposition of Ashes

Almighty God,
you have created us out of the dust of the earth.
May these ashes be for us a sign of
our mortality and penitence,
for it is only by your gracious gift
are we given everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

*People may come forward to receive the imposition of
ashes.*

*During the imposition, the congregation will sing
#470 "There Is a Longing in Our Hearts".*

*After all who desire ashes have received them,
the following prayer is spoken:*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of our Savior,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.
Amen.

The Sacrament of Communion

The Invitation

Jesus said: Come to me, all you that are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and lowly in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.

Prayer of 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...

...Through Christ, all glory and honor
are yours, almighty God,
with the Holy Spirit in the holy church,
now and forever. **Amen.**

Our Father who art in heaven...

The Communion of the People

*During the serving of the elements,
the congregation is invited to sing
#501 "Feed Us, Lord".*

Prayer after Communion

Hymn #494 "Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts" / Stanza 5

*O Jesus, ever with us stay;
make all our moments calm and bright.
O chase the night of sin away;
shed o'er the world thy holy light.*

Charge and Blessing

All quietly depart.

Worship Leaders

Magnus Eck, Montevallo Presbyterian Church
The Rev. Quincy Hall, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
The Rev. Dr. Sam Hamilton-Poore, Montevallo Presbyterian Church
Casey Pilgrim, Montevallo Presbyterian Church
Sally Smith, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Tonight's Choir
is a combination of members from
Montevallo Presbyterian, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church,
and University Baptist Church
as well as student singers from
the University of Montevallo.