

First Presbyterian Church



512 Third Street SW

Rochester, Minnesota 55902

Phone 282-1618

February 10, 2016
Ash Wednesday

6:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday begins the Christian season of Lent. We will spend the coming days journeying with Jesus toward the cross; toward the death that ultimately brings resurrection life. Many spend these coming days practicing a spiritual discipline.

Tonight we gather to acknowledge our sin, to acknowledge our mortality. We gather to honor Christ who offers forgiveness, who offers everlasting life. As part of tonight's worship, the imposition of ashes will be offered. Ashes have been used in Christian churches to mark the beginning of Lent since at least the 10th Century, and ashes are mentioned in scripture as a symbol of purification and repentance.

We offer the imposition of ashes tonight as a physical reminder of our mortality and sin; an assurance of God's forgiveness and salvation. Those who wish to receive the imposition of ashes will be invited to come forward. For those who come, please indicate with a gesture where you would like the mark of ashes to be touched: upon your forehead or the back of your hand.

Prelude

Meditation on "Neumark" (If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee)
Jubilate Deo Handbell Choir; Kristina Hesby, oboe

Julie Stitt

Our worship begins with the prelude. Let the power of the music speak to you of God's glory; let its quietness tell you of God's peace; let its beauty lift your hearts in prayer.

Call to Worship

*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;
though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.*

God's love endures forever.

Responsive Prayer

*Holy God: We place ourselves in your presence; we rest in the promise of your grace.
Our minds and our spirits are cluttered with many thoughts and feelings that threaten
to pull our attention away from you. Help us now release these things to you:*

We release all that we have done today—whether for good or for ill.

We release all that we feel like we should have done today, but did not do.

We release all that we need to do tomorrow.

We release our fear. We release our anxiety.

We release our impatience. We release our pride.

**All of the thoughts, all of the feelings that pull us away from you, O God, we
release.**

[silence]

Fill us now with the joy and the peace of your abiding presence.

We offer all of ourselves to you, dear God: our Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. Amen.

◆ Hymn 166

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

ST. FLAVIAN

Reading from the Scriptures

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 (from *The Message Bible*)

Anthem

O God, Create in Me a Clean Heart
Chancel Choir

Howard Helvey

O God, create in me a clean heart; O God create in me a clean heart. Renew a right spirit; O renew my spirit.

O God, create in me a clean heart. Cast me not away from your radiant presence, and take not your holy spirit, your spirit from me.

Unto me restore the joy of your salvation; uphold me with your spirit, with your willing spirit. O God, create in me a clean heart. Amen, Amen.

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Imposition of Ashes

Those who wish may come forward in the center aisle and return to their seats in a side aisle. The sign of the cross will be made with ashes. Please indicate whether you prefer the mark to be upon your forehead or the back of your hand.

“Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Repent and believe the Good News: God longs for you to be whole.”

Litany of Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

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

Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgment.

I've been out of step with you for a long time, in the wrong since before I was born.

For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

Help me to hear of joy and gladness, that this broken body may rejoice.

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

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Then I shall teach your ways, and sinners shall return to you.

Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a troubled spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Words of Life

Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Turn toward your God in the confidence that, through Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Reading from the Scriptures

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Reflection

Lent Is an Inside Job

Rev. Jay Rowland

Hymn 525 (seated)

Let Us Break Bread Together

LET US BREAK BREAD

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Our communion is open to all who believe that Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior.
The wine used in this sacrament is grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are available.

The Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader All
The Lord be with you And al - so - with you.

Leader All Leader 3
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give

All
thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give our thanks and praise!

... 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:

Sanctus

2
Ho - ly, Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord God of pow'r 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, who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est!

... That our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith:

Memorial Acclamation

One All
Praise to you, Lord Je - sus: Dy-ing you de-stroyed our death,

4
ri-sing you re-stored our life. Lord Je-sus, come in glo - ry.

Lord's Prayer (using 'debts' and 'debtors')

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Please come forward to be served. If you wish to be served in the pew, a server will be in the side aisle to assist you.

Lonesome Valley
Jubilate Deo Handbell Choir

Hart Morris

Stay with Us (Luke 24:29)
Chancel Choir

Egil Hovland

Stay with us, Lord Jesus, stay with us. Stay with us, it soon is evening and night is falling.
Jesus Christ, the world's true light! Shine so the darkness cannot overcome it!
Stay with us, Lord Jesus, it soon is evening. Stay with us, Lord Jesus, for night is falling.
Let your light pierce the darkness and fill your church with its glory.

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Prayer after Communion

Sending

◆ **Hymn 677** The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Is Ended ST. CLEMENT

◆ **Benediction**

Postlude O Sacred Head, Now Wounded Anton Wilhelm Leupold

Those who wish may be seated for the postlude. Our music is offered to the glory of God; if you want to express your appreciation, a spoken "Amen" or "Praise God" is appropriate.

Some of the service music was written by Lee J Afdahl.

◆ Please stand if you are able.

About Our Church

Rev. Thomas J. (T.J.) Parlette, Pastor Kathleen M. Kruger, Music Assistant
Rev. Jay P. Rowland, Associate Pastor Susan K. Kruger, Office Administrator
Lee J. Afdahl, Director of Music/Organist Harry E. Coleman, Facility Manager
Rick L. Morris, Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education Diane M. Johnston-Arthur, Custodian
Child Care staff: Valerie Asleson, Kelly Bock, Margie Schaaf
Security and custodial personnel: Steven Aug, Sally Evans, Sue Kruger, Tami Rinn, Eric Schwartzbauer
Office hours: Monday-Thursday (7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.); Friday (7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.); Saturday (9:30 a.m.-noon)

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*The mission of First Presbyterian Church of Rochester
is to reflect God's love for all people by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Member: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

We invite you to share in our Lenten activities.

Services of Worship

Sundays at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

- March 20 Palm Sunday services of worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m.
March 24 Maundy Thursday service of worship at 7 p.m.
March 27 Easter Sunday services of worship at 8, 9:30, and 11 a.m.

A Festival of Music ~ Wednesday Lenten Organ Recitals

12:15 – 12:45 p.m.

- February 17 Brian Williams, organist / Calvary Episcopal Church, Rochester
February 24 Harold Vetter, organist / Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Rochester
March 2 Shayla DeJong, organ student / Luther College, Decorah, Iowa
March 9 Julie Yoonjeong Kim, organist / Congregational Church, Rochester
March 16 Eileen Nelson Ness, organist / Salem Lutheran Church, Albert Lea

A Festival of Music

4 p.m.

- March 13 Lee J. Afdahl and Friends in an Organ-Plus concert

Lenten Study Opportunities

Adult Education / Sundays at 9:40 a.m.: Kerygma Bible Study, Current Issues, and Grace-Based Parenting classes.

Bible Study / Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. beginning February 17: "*The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus*" led by Rev. T. J. Parlette. The study is based on a book of the same title by Adam Hamilton.

The Presbyterians Today 2016 Lenten Devotional booklet, *Be Holy*, is available in the office and at the Welcome desk. You are welcome to take one; there is no charge.