



Ash
Wednesday

First Presbyterian Church

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Ash Wednesday

March 2, 2022

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Click [here](#) to connect to this evening's live worship.)

As we prepare to worship, please silence all mobile devices.



For those of you worshipping with us online, please have your bread and cup available at the beginning of worship so that we might partake of the elements at the same time during this evening's service.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND OPENING SENTENCES

Mindy Douglas

Leader: We despise our fragility.

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

Leader: We are terrified by shapeless threat.

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

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

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

***HYMN No. 167**

Forty Days and Forty Nights

Aus Der Tiefe Rufe Ich

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

John Weicher

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Merciful God, your word is our way of truth and life.**

**Create in us hearts that are clean
and put your Holy Spirit within us,
so that we may receive your grace
and declare your praise forever;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PSALTER READING

Psalm 51:1-17

John Weicher

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Mary Berry

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

MEDITATION

Mary Berry

***HYMN No. 427**

Jesus Knows the Inmost Heart

Loe De Ísá

INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

Mindy Douglas

*Those who are able, please stand.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

John Weicher, Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

Leader: 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.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness.
For the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

All: have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: For our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,

All: have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: For our anger at our own frustration
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

All: have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: For our negligence in prayer and worship,
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

All: have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: For our neglect of human need and suffering
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

All: have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,
and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

All: have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: Restore us, O God of our salvation, and show us your steadfast love.

All: Turn to us in your mercy and redeem us.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

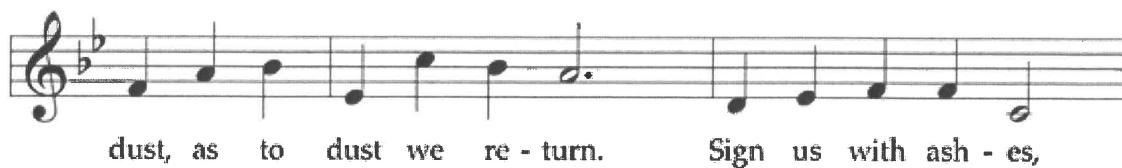
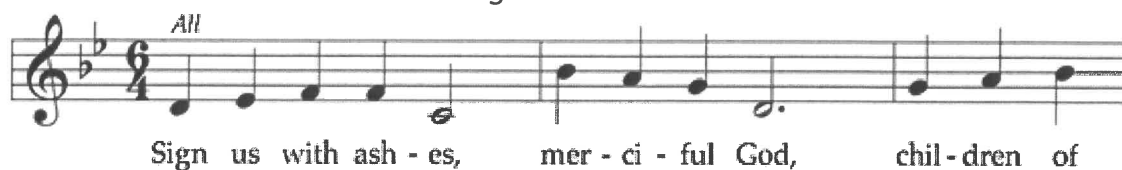
John Weicher, Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

(You are invited to come forward for the imposition of ashes. Then you may return to your seat.)

Hymn No. 433

Sign Us with Ashes

Phoenix



RESPONSE*John Weicher*

Leader: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

All: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

Leader: By the cross and passion of our Savior,

All: bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Mindy Douglas

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lenore Champion

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Creator God, we lift our hearts to you
because you made the universe from nothing
and formed human beings in your image from the dust of the earth.
In Adam you saw your hopes for creation turn to ashes,
and yet in Abraham and Moses
you called a people out of wilderness and slavery.
You showed your face to your people in exile,
and in Christ the new Adam you raised your children
to new life out of ashes of sin and death.
And so, we gladly praise and thank you,
with angels and archangels and the company of heaven,
speaking your unending praise.

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: Redeemer God, over forty days you flooded the earth,
over forty years you led your people through the wilderness,
and over forty days your Spirit led Jesus through the desert.
Bless us through the sustenance of this food and drink
to profess your Son's death and resurrection.
Send down your Holy Spirit, that we may come
to resemble and follow our crucified and risen Savior.
Great is the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ come again.

Leader: Sanctifying God, where your children are in the wilderness,
lead them to your heart.
Where your people are hungry for you,
give them practices of fasting and scripture reading
and almsgiving and repentance and prayer.
Where your followers know beatings, imprisonments, hardships, and calamities,
visit them with the comforting power of your presence.

Raise up the glory of your resurrection
from the ashes of our pride and sloth and greed,
that all your church and the whole creation
may celebrate the wonders of your love,
until the day when every eye shall see you
and every tongue shall praise you, and you are all in all,
ever one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

**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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Mindy Douglas

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

*(All the bread is gluten free. The elements were prepared in a gluten-free area.
You will be directed to come forward to receive the bread, then the cup.
Please return to your seat after receiving the elements.)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ
you reconciled your people to yourself.
Following his example of prayer and fasting,
may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HYMN No. 183

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler

Austin

BENEDICTION

Mary Berry

POSTLUDE

First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship with us. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church.

We welcome to the pulpit this evening, Mary Dance Berry. Mary grew up near Richmond, VA and attended Sweet Briar College. She is presently a Ph.D. student in Hebrew Studies and a research assistant at Duke Divinity School where she earned a Master of Divinity degree in 2017. Mary and husband Stephen Berry joined FPC in February 2015. They have a son, August, who is almost two years old, and a second child on the way.

Many thanks to John Fricks and our tech team for their behind-the-scenes assistance with our live broadcast of worship this evening.

Portions of this evening's worship texts are taken from *Book of Common Worship* (2018), *Call to Worship* (2021-2022), and *Eucharistic Prayers*. **Hymn music** is reprinted from *Glory to God* under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

Hearing Assistance Receivers are available for use during worship from the audio console located at the rear of the sanctuary. *Before you leave the sanctuary, please turn off the receiver and place it in the specially marked receptacle or return to an usher.*

Masks are still required: We ask that the congregation be masked when inside as an act of generous hospitality to children who cannot yet be vaccinated and transplant recipients and others on medication that reduce the efficacy of vaccines.

The Pulpit Paraments: In 2012 First Presbyterian Church commissioned Laurie Wohl to design and create paraments to be hung from the pulpit and lectern during Lent and Advent. Wohl is an internationally known fiber artist who exhibited her work at the church in spring of 2012. Her liturgical projects emphasize the "threads that bind" and the unity of the Old and New Testaments. We are grateful that the bequest of Anne 'St. Clair' Williams made it possible to enhance our sanctuary with these beautiful works of art.

The **Lenten Banner** was completed in 1990 and dedicated in 1991. It depicts traditional Lenten symbols. The banner was made possible by funds donated in memory of **Bess Bryant** and by the stitching of many devoted members of this congregation.

Restrooms are located off the narthex (to the left and right as you exit the rear of the sanctuary), on the second floor of the Christian education building, and on the first and second floors of the church house.

A Lenten Prayer

Lord God of Hosts: make us pilgrims throughout these forty days.

Lead us through discipline to discipleship.

Jesus, remember us when you come into your kingdom.

We offer you our prayers this day:

For your church around the world, we ask new life.

For all who carry out ministries in your church, we ask grace and wisdom.

For people who have accepted spiritual disciplines, we ask inspiration and perseverance.

For Christians of every land, we ask new unity in your name.

For Jews and Muslims and people of other faiths, we ask your divine blessing.

For this troubled and warring world, we ask your peace.

For those who cannot believe, we ask your faithful love.

For rulers in every land, we ask your guidance.

For our beloved city, we ask your protection.

For people who suffer and sorrow, we ask your healing peace.

God of compassion, we praise you

that you look upon our lives with love and understanding,

and that you desire for us all new life in Jesus Christ.

We are overwhelmed by your love,

which goes to the cross for us,

endures the grave,

and leads us to new life.

By your Spirit, strengthen our souls to be steadfast in Christ's service. Amen.

167 Forty Days and Forty Nights

1 For - ty days and for - ty nights you were fast - ing in the wild;
 2 Shall not we your sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,
 3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, flesh or spir - it to as - sail,
 4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;
 5 Keep, O keep us, Sav - ior dear, ev - er con - stant by your side,

for - ty days and for - ty nights temp - ted, and yet un - de - filed.
 fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with you to suf - fer pain?
 vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant that we not faint nor fail!
 round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as served you faith - ful - ly.
 that with you we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler 183

D G A D A D A

- 1 "Come to me, O wea - ry trav - eler; come to me with your dis - tress;
- 2 "Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not fear, my bur - den's light;
- 3 "Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my yoke and come with me.
- 4 "Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - eler; rest in me and do not fear.

Bm G Em Bm A G D A D G D

come to me, you heav - y bur - dened; come to me and find your rest."
 do not fear the path be - fore you; do not run from me in fright."
 Take my yoke, I am be - side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty."
 Rest in me, my heart is gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care."

Jesus Knows the Inmost Heart 427

Refrain Bm Em D G Am7 Bm7 Em

Je - sus knows the in - most heart: noth - ing can be hid - den.

Bm Em D G Am7 Bm7 Em *Fine*

Je - sus knows the in - most heart: noth - ing can be hid - den.

Em Bm Am Em C Am Em

work - ing in us day by day till the dross is burned a - way.

- 1 This our sin - ful hearts re - quire: flame of God's re - fin - ing fire,
- 2 Je - sus knows our deep - est fears, knows the pain of hid - den tears.
- 3 When our lives are in his hand noth - ing can his work with - stand;
- 4 So our faith will be re - stored by the word of Christ our Lord;

Em Em7 Am D7 Em Am7 Bm7 Em *to Refrain*

By his words of love and peace ev - ery heart can find re - lease.

his for - give - ness sets us free, saves us for e - ter - ni - ty.
for the warmth his love im - parts melts the ver - y hard - est hearts.

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator
Lenore Champion, Children's Ministry Director
Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate
Joseph Harvard, Pastor Emeritus



Sybil King, Administrative Assistant
Mitzi Leshar-Thomas, Associate Pastor
Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator
Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music
John Weicher, Associate Pastor

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office:
info@firstpres-durham.org or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.

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