



Ash
WEDNESDAY
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 2, 2022 6:30 p.m.

www.fpcknox.org

The season of Lent calls Christians to embrace their faith journey by reflecting upon and deepening their relationship with God. For many, Lent includes a fast—a giving up of something as a way of connecting with Jesus' sacrifice and his forty-day struggle in the wilderness. The forty days of Lent also offer an opportunity for taking up or renewing a practice of faith—worship, study, prayer, and service. All is in preparation for Holy Week, Christ's journey to the cross, and Easter.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

O Man Bewail Thy Grievous Fall

Johann S. Bach

OPENING PRAYER

God of our salvation, we long to be reconciled to you. Help us to clear away any obstacle that prevents us from accepting the grace of Christ. No matter what we face in this life, increase in us knowledge and patience, kindness and holiness of spirit, genuine love and truthful speech, so that, by the power of God at work in us, we may live even as we are dying and rejoice even in our sorrows. Though it may seem that we have nothing, if we are reconciled to you, we possess everything, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come to worship God as the Lenten season begins,
aware of our frailty and our failings.

People: **We come seeking God's mercy,
acknowledging our mortality.**

Leader: Having received the waters of baptism,
we are marked now with ashes.

People: **The treasures of this earth do not last;
our treasure is in heaven,
our heart's true home.**

All: **Let us worship God**

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| <p>1. Lord, who throughout these forty days
For us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins
And close by you to stay.</p> <p>2. As you with Satan did contend
And did the victory win,
O give us strength to persevere,
In you to conquer sin.</p> | <p>3. And through these days of penitence,
And through this Passiontide,
Yes, evermore, in life and death,
O Lord, with us abide.</p> <p>4. Abide with us, till when this life
Of suffering shall be past,
An Easter of unending joy
We may attain at last.</p> |
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CALL TO CONFESSION

God desires truth in the inward being and receives a broken spirit, the contrite heart. Seeking abundant mercy, let us confess our sins before God together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us. We have many treasures on earth that we hold too tightly; that we withhold from others in need. When we sin against neighbor, condone injustice, and bicker with one another, we sin against you. Forgive us, we pray, for we are broken in spirit. Do not see us for our faults, and do not go away from us. Keep us always in your presence so that we may be restored to the joy of your salvation. Sustain in us a willing spirit to seek after what you desire; then our hearts will be opened in joy and gladness. In Jesus Christ, we pray... (a moment for silent confession)

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: According to God's steadfast love,
according to God's abundant mercy,
God does not pass judgment on us the
judgment we deserve.

People: **God creates in us clean hearts and
gives a new and right spirit.
In the grace of Jesus Christ,
we return to God forgiven.**

All: **Praise God for our salvation!**

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(Tonight's offering will benefit the Family Promise Ministry.)

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 58:1-12

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 delight to draw near to God. 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 Look, 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 not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs 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 be like the 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.

ANTHEM

Christ, We Do All Adore Thee

Théodore Dubois

Christ, we do all adore thee, and we do praise thee forever, for on the holy cross hast thou the world from sin redeemed.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalms 51:1-17

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
⁴ Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.
⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
⁶ You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my
secret heart.
⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.
¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of
your deliverance.
¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
¹⁶ For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would
not be pleased.
¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God is a
broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will
not despise

LITANY OF THE ASHES

Leader: We bow our heads before you, O God, aware of our sinfulness and our shortcomings. Remembering our baptism, the watermark of the cross upon us, we also receive this ashen cross upon our foreheads—another sign that in life and in death, we belong to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and coming again, we pray.

All: Amen.

IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

Those who wish may come forward to be marked with ashes as a sign of repentance. As each one comes forward, the sign of the cross will be placed on his or her forehead, with the words “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

† CLOSING HYMN 442

Just As I Am Without One Plea

Woodworth

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| <p>1. Just as I am, without one plea
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou biddest me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!</p> <p>2. Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!</p> | <p>3. Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!</p> <p>4. Just as I am, thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!</p> |
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† PASTORAL BENEDICTION

† - Please stand if you are able.



All leave in silence, holding the silence until outdoors or in the Fellowship Hall.