

ASH



WEDNESDAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The ♥ of Ashland

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THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

February 22, 2023

7:00 p.m.

✠ WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME ✠

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Bill Pollack

Prelude

Max Jackson

Fantasia in C Minor
(J S Bach)

† Call to Worship

L: "Return to Me with all your heart," says the Lord.

P: We open our hearts to soulful examination.

L: Let us return to the Lord who is gracious and merciful.

P: We open our hearts to His steadfast love.

L: With our hearts open to the Lord, what do we seek?

P: O God, create in us a clean heart and put a new and right spirit within us as we walk with You.

† Prayer of Invocation

† Opening Hymn

#738

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

O Master, let me walk with Thee in lowly paths of service free;
tell me Thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil,
the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me Thy patience, still with Thee in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way;
in peace that only Thou canst give,
with Thee, O Master, let me live.

✠ WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD ✠

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Stewart Schneider

Old Testament Lesson—Joel 2:1-2, 12–17

L: The Word of the Lord **P: Thanks be to God!**

Epistle Lesson—2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

L: The Word of the Lord **P: Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 51

Responsive Reading

L: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

P: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

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

P: 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.

L: Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

P: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

L: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

P: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that You have crushed rejoice.

L: Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

P: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

L: Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

P: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You.

L: Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Your deliverance.

P: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

L: For You have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, You would not be pleased.

P: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

L: Do good to Zion in Your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,

P: Then You will delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Your altar.

Anthem

Chancel Choir

A Hymn of Supplication

(Don McAfee)

O Lord, Have mercy now we pray, and save us by Thy steadfast love. For we have wondered from Thy way: forgive us from above. Against Thee only do we sin, and we are helpless in Thy sight; Without Thee all is dark within: Lord lead us by Thy light.

Create within us cleaner hearts, and fashion spirits fresh and new; Restore the joy Thy love imparts: Lord keep us strong and true. Amen.

✠ **INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE** ✠

† **Gospel Lesson—Luke 9:43b-45, 51**

Rev. Brian Steele

L: The Holy Gospel of Christ.

P: Thanks be to God!

† **Call to Confession**

Rev. Brian Steele

† **Prayer of Confession (in unison)**

O God, we have turned from you in our hearts, minds, and actions. We feel the distance we create when we look away. Whether our turning was deliberate or gradual, conscious or almost unawares, we return to you now with contrite hearts. We open our lives before you and seek your gracious forgiveness. We confess our need to return to you, to turn toward you as we journey in Lent toward Easter and the hope of resurrection. Amen.

† **Assurance of Pardon**

† Response of Thanksgiving

Sunday's Palms are Wednesday's Ashes

Sunday's palms are Wednesday's ashes as another Lent begins;
thus, we kneel before our Maker in contrition for our sins.

We have marred baptismal pledges, in rebellion gone astray;
now, returning, seek forgiveness; grant us pardon, God, this day!

† Hymn

#165

The Glory of These Forty Days

The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, by whom all things were made,
Himself has fasted and has prayed.

Alone and fasting Moses saw the loving God who gave the law;
and to Elijah, fasting, came
the steeds and chariots of flame.

So, Daniel trained his mystic sight,
delivered from the lions' might;
and John, the Bridegroom's friend, became
the herald of Messiah's name.

Then grant that we like them be true,
consumed in fast and prayer with You;
our spirits strengthen with Your grace,
and give us joy to see Your face.

Imposition of Ashes *Rev. Jennifer Johnson & Rev. Brian Steele*

(After all who desire ashes have received them,
the confession concludes with:)

L: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of Your salvation,

P: That we may show forth Your glory in the world.

L: Help us to remember the saving act of Jesus on our behalf.

P: As we have been marked this night, use us for Your greater purpose.

L: By the cross and passion of our Savior,

P: bring us with all Your saints to experience the joy of Christ's resurrection. Amen.

Invitation to Christian Stewardship

Rev. Bill Pollack

Our offering will benefit the Neighborhood.

Offertory

Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God
(Johann Walther)

Doxology

Lord of All Good
(Toulon)

Father, whose bounty all creation shows;
Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live;
Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows:
to you with grateful hearts ourselves we give.

Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

Chancel Choir

Renew me, O Eternal Light
(David Ashley White)

Renew me, O eternal Light, and let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace that issues from Your holy face.
Remove the power of sin from me and cleanse all my impurity,
That I may have the strength and will temptations of the flesh to
still. Create in me a new heart, Lord, that gladly I obey Your
word. Let what You will be my desire, and with new life my soul
inspire. Grant that I only You may love and seek those things
which are above, Till I behold You face to face, O Light eternal
through Your grace.

✠ THE LORD'S SUPPER ✠

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Rev. Bill Pollack

Great 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.

...Hear us, gracious God, as we join creation's song and sing
your eternal praise:

(sung)

**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. Hosanna in the highest.

...With thanksgiving, as we wait on the Lord and follow him on
this Lenten journey, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

(sung)

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again. (2x)

Gracious God, pour out Your Holy Spirit.... Through Christ, all
glory and honor are Yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit
in the holy church, now and forever.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

...As we continue to live as your disciples,
hear us as we pray as you taught us to pray, saying:

The Lord's Prayer

**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 sins, as we
forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into
temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

L: The gifts of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

*(We observe Holy Communion tonight by intinction. Please come
forward to receive the bread and dip it in the cup. Following
communion, please return to your seat.)*

Prayer After Communion

✠ **WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME** ✠

† **Closing Hymn**

#167

Forty Days and Forty Nights

Forty days and forty nights You were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.

Shall not we Your sorrow share and from worldly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer, strong with You to suffer pain?

Then if Satan on us press, flesh or spirit to assail,
victor in the wilderness, grant that we not faint nor fail!

So shall we have peace divine: holier gladness ours shall be;
round us, too, shall angels shine, such as served You faithfully.

Keep, O keep us, Savior dear, ever constant by Your side,
that with You we may appear at the eternal Eastertide.

† **Charge and Benediction**

Rev. Brian Steele

† *Please stand, as you are able.*

Worship Participants

Mr. Max Jackson, Choirmaster, Organist, First Presbyterian Church

Rev. Jennifer Johnson, Chaplain, Cabell-Huntington Hospital

Rev. Bill Pollack, First Presbyterian Church

Rev. Stewart Schneider, Community Presbyterian Church

Rev. Brian Steele, Normal Presbyterian Church

First Presbyterian Church Choir

Upcoming Lenten/Holy Week Services

The AAMA is sponsoring Community Lent Midweek Worship on Wednesdays during March. Each service will begin at **Noon** with lunch at **12:30 p.m.**

March 1—First United Methodist Church

March 8—First Presbyterian Church

March 15—Holy Family Catholic Church

March 22—First Christian Church

March 29—Cornerstone Methodist Church

Maundy Thursday hosted by First Presbyterian **April 6, at 7 p.m.**

A **Sunrise Service** and breakfast fellowship will be offered at Normal Presbyterian Church, **Sunday, April 9, 6:30 a.m.** All are invited.