



THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 5, 2025

7:00 p.m.

✠ WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME ✠

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Bill Pollack

Prelude

Max Jackson

The Glory Of These Forty Days

Johann Pachelbel

† Call to Worship

Kay Ferguson

Leader: We are formed of the dust.

People: To dust we shall return.

Leader: This truth is a gift.

People: It reminds us that we are the created, not the Creator.

Leader: It invites us to trust the One who made us.

People: It offers us perspective and corrects our bent toward idolatry.

Leader: We are formed of the dust.

People: To dust we shall return.

All: Thanks be to God who formed us in His own image.

† Opening Hymn

#166

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

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.

As You with Satan did contend and did the victory win,
O give us strength to persevere, in You to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence, and through this Passiontide,
yes, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

✠ WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD ✠

Old Testament Lesson: Joel 2:1–2, 12–13

L: The Word of the Lord

P: Thanks be to God!

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

Mitch Hall

L: The Word of the Lord

P: Thanks be to God!

Psalm 51

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.

Renew Me, O Eternal Light

David A 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.

✠ **INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE** ✠† **Gospel Lesson**

Mark 9:30–32

L: The Holy Gospel of Christ. **P: Thanks be to God!****Ash Wednesday Homily***Rev. Bill Pollack****The End to the Journey***† **Call to Confession**† **Prayer of Confession** (in unison)

**Merciful Savior, we confess to You and to one another that we
fall far short of being all that You created us to be. We have not
loved You with our whole hearts. We have not loved our
neighbors. We have failed to love ourselves as well. We
overindulge our bodies, do not rest or exercise, and are
impoverished in soul and spirit. We cling to bitterness and
anger, and grasp tightly to the hurts of yesterday rather than
entrusting them to Your healing and forgiving grace. Forgive us,
Lord. Grant us the desire and the faith to let go, putting all our
days -- past, present and future -- in Your safe and capable
hands. For the sake of Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.**

† **Assurance of Pardon**† **Response of Thanksgiving**

#181 (1)

Silence! Frenzied Unclean Spirit

“Silence! Frenzied unclean spirit,” cried God’s healing, Holy One.

“Cease your ranting! Flesh can’t bear it.

Flee as night before the sun.”

At Christ's voice the demon trembled,
from its victim madly rushed.
While the crowd that was assembled stood in wonder,
stunned, and hushed.

† 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. Bill Pollack

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.

Hymn of Communion

#202 (1,2)

An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare

An upper room did our Lord prepare for those He loved until the end:
and His disciples still gather there to celebrate their risen friend.

A lasting gift Jesus gave His own: to share His bread, His loving cup.
Whatever burdens may bow us down, he by His cross shall lift us up.

✠ 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:

**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:

**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.

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 this evening 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

#703

Jesus, Thou Boundless Love to Me

Jesus, Thy boundless love to me
no thought can reach, no tongue declare;
O knit my thankful heart to Thee,
and reign without a rival there!
Thine wholly, Thine alone, I'd live;
myself to Thee entirely give.

O grant that nothing in my soul
may dwell, but Thy pure love alone;
O may Thy love possess me whole,
my joy, my treasure, and my crown!
All coldness from my heart remove;
may every act, word, thought be love.

O Love, how gracious is Thy way!
All fear before Thy presence flies;
care, anguish, sorrow melt away
where'er Thy healing beams arise.

O Jesus, nothing may I see,
nothing desire, or seek, but Thee.

Postlude

Max Jackson

Fantasia In D Minor

Johann Pachelbel

† Charge and Benediction

† *Please stand, as you are able.*

Ash Wednesday Prayer

Dear righteous Lord, we enter the holy season of Lent, confessing our many sins that separate us from You. We're sincerely sorry for offending You repeatedly through our thoughts, our words, and our actions — and often through our inactions, too.

Forgive us, Lord, and show us Your tender mercy. Restore and strengthen us to become Your faithful and faith-filled servants.

During our Lenten journey, remind us to show mercy to other people, just as You've shown mercy to us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Upcoming Lenten/Holy Week Services

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

March 12—First United Methodist Church
March 19—First Presbyterian Church
March 26—Cornerstone Methodist Church
April 2—Holy Family Catholic Church
April 9—First Christian Church

An offering will be received at each service in support of the Community Kitchen, Shelter of Hope, and CARES.

Mauddy Thursday at First Presbyterian April 17 at 7 p.m.

To visit the church website, scan the code below.



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